nals

THE INDEPENDENT

IN THE 28-PAGE EYE TODAY

Sex violence and the man who made

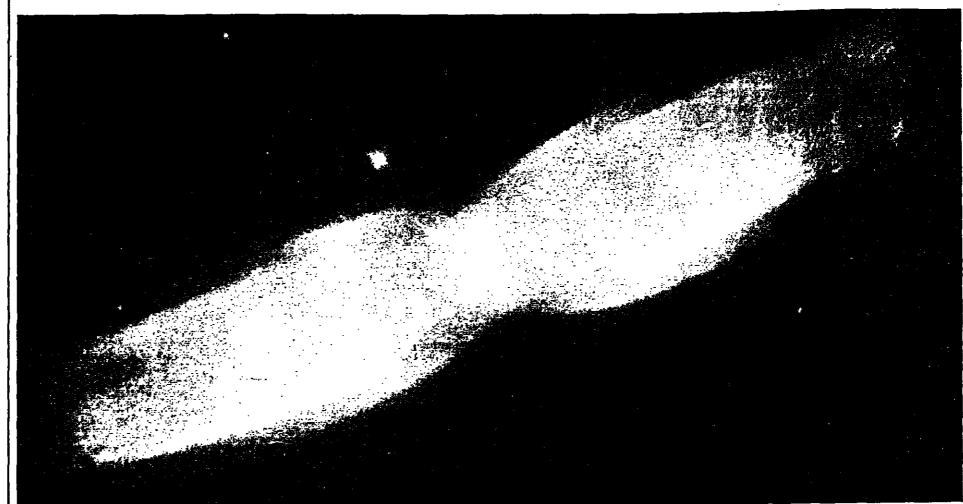
Basic Instinct

Eisenstein: Joker and genius



From Doors to Joy **Division: Best boxed** pop of the year

Butterfly in the night sky, 1,200 years ago



Watch this space: A 'butterfly' nebula, a star throwing out hot gases at speeds of 720,000mph, photographed by the orbiting Hubble space telescope. Known as M2-9, the star is 2,100 light-years away and the explosion that we see started 1,200 years ago, according to astronomers, so the plumes visible now have been growing for hundreds of years.

TODAY'S NEWS

Hindley loses appeal against sentence

The Moors murderer Myra Hindley failed in her High Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, and two senior judges unanimously ruled that the Home Secrerary is entitled to decide that she must die in prison. The judges said that he is free to operate a policy that life sentences for the most notorious killers "will mean life" – as long as individual cases are kept under review. She was given leave to appeal. Page 11

Why sex is a lifesaver

Sex is good for you - and the more of it the better, according to a new study. Researchers found that men who had orgasms at least twice a week had half the risk of dying over the next 10 years, compared with those who had orgasms less than once a month. Page 7

Video nasties targeted

Britain's new film and video censor is to launch an immediate review of certification rules to prevent ultraviolent videos getting into the shops. Andreas Whictam-Smith said his priority was to prevent children from seeing unsuitable material. Mr Whittam Smith, 60, founding editor of The Independent, was formaily appointed president of the British Board of film censors yesterday by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.



TELEVISION The Eye, page 12 WEATHER The Eye, page 10

ndependent.co.uk

Rape victims to be spared the shame of telling their sexual history Police regularly broke Home was not admissible but had his Fear of having embarrassing witness. "That might be because amount of time a woman took

Rape victims who fear paraded in court could be protected by changes being considered by ministers. That should help to raise the numbers of rapists convicted, which have

The number of women reporting rapes by their husbands or partners has doubled in four years, according to the latest re-

plummeted.

search by Home Office officials. Just 8 per cent of reported rapes are now committed by strangers, while half take place within marriage or other intimate relationships.

But while the number of offences recorded rose from 1.842 in 1985 to 5,759 in 1996, convictions fell from 24 per cent to 10 per cent, Worse, only about three-quarters were even

"no crime" if a woman's allegation proved false. But that often happened when the woman withdrew or there was insufficient evidence.

A study of 300 cases by the Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate said police found "no crime" in 72, just 27 of which were false or malicious. A file was sent to the Crown Prosecution Service in just one third of cases, and a quarter reached court.

The findings, to be followed by a final report next year, will give new impetus to a ministerial review on vulnerable witnesses which is already considering a range of options to tackle low conviction rates in

The group is looking at ways in which defence barristers can be prevented from using complainants' sexual histories against them. In one recent case a judge ruled that such evidence

could only be discarded as One possibility would be to revealed in court is a prime reanight," Professor Lees said. allow the prosecution to retaliate when a woman's background was used against her, allowing the defendant's own sexual history to be mentioned

- including sex convictions. Other options include rules from claiming that a delay in re-

son why women decide to drop their cases. Those who know their attackers well are also less likely to proceed.

The Home Office research found that women over 35 were less likely to get to court, along preventing defence barristers with those who had consensual relations with their attackers

BY FRAN ABRAMS

porting the crime suggested a hefore the rape and those who complainant consented but suffered few physical injuries. then got "cold feet."

The group is also looking at whether it might be made easier to bring cases in which a number of women accuse the

Earlier this week The Independent reported that the review was also likely to give judges the right to prevent defendants from cross-examining witnesses.

Professor Sue Lees of the University of North London, who published her own research on the subject in a book called Camal Knowledge: Rape on Trial, said official statistics were distorted because so many crimes were not even recorded.

Often police said there was no crime when they thought the woman would not be a credible

Office guidelines which said a decision overturned at appeal. and prejudicial private details she is black or she is out late at to report a rape were under con-Her latest research, to be

> published shortly, found that of 109 recorded rape cases just nine resulted in convictions. Of those, six were by strangers and three by acquaintances. Two of those three were gang raped and the third was raped by a man 30 years younger than her. Not one man was convicted of one-to-one marital or

Few older women saw their rapists convicted, she said. "My impression is that there are very few convictions relating to women over 35. It is quite likely that those women are either cohabiting or married, and that

their partners don't want them to go ahead. In cases of marital rape, they may be intimidated. There are all sorts of repercussions," she said. A Home Office spokes-

woman confirmed that curbs on defence barristers' use of sexual history evidence and of the

was looking at vulnerable witnesses in all kinds of cases, would be completed by the end of the month and would report early in the new year.

In a written parliamentary reply to the Liberal Democrats. the Home Secretary Jack Straw said: "The government are very concerned about the low proportion of reported rapes that result in a conviction. We need to know precisely why."

Richard Allan, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said his party was conducting its own review. "Anyone would think twice if they thought their sexual history would be revealed," he said.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, welcomed the move but said a balance must be struck.

*We would accept that maybe there needs to be some changes but obviously we need to protect defendants from being wrongly accused," he said.

Iran to restart talks on Rushdie fatwa

CROSSWORD'S Page 30 and

Web address: http://www.

against British author Salman Rushdie now that EU ambassadors have returned to Tehran. the new Iranian minister of Islamic Guidance, Seyyed Ataol-

The Iranian government hopes Independent. Western diplothe 'fatwa' death sentence from the Iranians which effectively overturns the late Ayatollah Khomeini's 'fatwa' against the author.

The Iranians are prepared to put their names to a letter lah Mohajerani, has told The which says that they are not go-

ing to kill Rushdie - but they will to re-start negotiations over mats in Tehran want a letter not officially overturn a religious Mr Mohajerani is one of the

most liberal figures in the new government of President Mohamed Khatami. When he gave evidence to the Iranian parliament on 20 August, he said:

ideas but that does not mean we should be allowed to insult them ... if an intellectual expresses his theories, we should criticise him in a respectable way - and in this way we enrich our society. It is a great tragedy

"We can be against people's so much civilisation and culture. uses had language [against writ-

And he added: "Islam is not like a small, dark alley in which man constantly hits his head against a wall and can't survive. Islam is like a highway. when a nation which has created a road full of growth and hap-

through all his life." Mr Rushdie was sceptical yesterday about suggestions that the Iranian position has softened. "My own attitude is: wait and see," he told The

Independent. Rushdie's future, page 9



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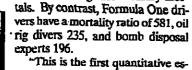


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Why TV soap is worse than life in the fast lane

Death is a fact of life in soap opera. Soap characters run a higher risk of death than steeplejacks, Formula One drivers or bomb disposal experts. In EastEnders the death tally is 17 and rising. Coronation Street has lost 14 characters but Brookside and Emmerdale top the table with 29 and 28 deaths respectively.

The death count over the last 12 years demonstrates the risks that television soap stars run. Dr Tim Crayford, of the department of public health at King's College Hospital, London, and colleagues say an analysis of the four television soaps reveals a standardised mortality ratio for their stars of 771, more than seven times the average for ordinary mor-



timate of the size of the pinch of salt which should be taken when watching soap operas," they say in the Christmas issue of the British Medical Journal. Albert Square in EastEnders turns

out to be a significantly more dangerous place to live than Coronation Street. "People moving to Coronation Street between the ages of 30 and 44 went on to lead charmed

lives while their peers living in Albert Square dropped like flies." Many characters, often young, died violent or unexpected deaths including three killed by a mystery virus in Brookside and four killed in a plane crash in Emmerdale.

The authors say the results are of more than academic interest as British soap operas have built up a reputation for mirroring social themes, dealing with issues including Aids, breast cancer, theft and mugging. When it comes to death, however, they suggest they may be distorting the perception of violence in society. "It seems sad that to hold our interest they have to be as dangerous as Formula One motor racing."

They advise characters who still survive to wear good protective clothing (designed to withstand sharp implements, sudden impacts and fire) and to receive regular counselling "for living in an environment akin to

A spokeswoman for EastEnders said: "EastEnders is a drama, and like any drama reflects the age old complexities of life and death. "The EastEnders data for this research was taken from unofficial web-

sites and the findings should perhaps be taken with a pinch of salt.

"In 12 years just over 1 per cent of our characters have died. It's probably more dangerous to be a character in a Shakespeare play."

But Dr Crayford insisted yesterday: "I think there's a lot of scope for soap operas to be more realistic. It wouldn't be a bad thing if a few more people died of strokes and heart attacks, or lung cancer.'

Features

Sport

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

espapers in the first half of 1997.

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK

Weather

Obituaries

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- Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

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PEOPLE



Daddy ... Darling Daughter at the Young Vic, south London, from Monday Photograph: Philip Meech

Mother takes Christmas gifts to Woodward

Susan Woodward, mother of the former au pair Louise, was yesterday preparing to fly to Boston to join her daughter for Christmas. She said that her daughter was disappointed that she could not come home but was adapting well to life in Massachusetts.

Woodward, 19, from Elton, Cheshire, was freed last month after being convicted by a jury in Boston of the second-degree murder of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen. The conviction should have meant a minimum of 15 years in jail, but Judge Hiller Zobel overturned the verdict substituting a conviction for manslaughter and sentenced Woodward to exactly the time she had already spent in jail on remand.

But she has been ordered to stay in Massachusetts until appeals by both the defence and prosecution have been heard in March.

Mrs Woodward said yesterday that everyone was resting and preparing for the appeal. "All that's happened of course from the beginning of February everybody knows and our lives haven't been the same the whole saga takes a different turn all of the time. ers for her daughter.

and at the moment we are in a quiet period waiting for the appeal in March. It's a very different phase now, it's a very supportive phase, everybody shows how much they support Louise and share with us how wrong they think the verdict was and we are taking comfort from that," she told Sky News. Woodward is unable to attend school in Ameri-

ca because of the status of her visa, but her mother said she was using her time to brush up on her French with the help of a tutor and would be resuming clariner lessons in the new year. "She spends her day reading and writing letters.

responding to the many letters that she gets, I don't think she would ever be able to tackle all of them. She has a lot of e-mail so she spends time on the computer and is brushing up on her computer skills. so she is using her time very usefully. It's just passing time though, until she can come home."

Mrs Woodward will fly out to Boston this weekend, laden with presents and cards from wellwish-- Kate Watson-Smyth

Cold comfort from Thais for cancer-stricken GP

The Medical Council in Thailand has urged a cancer-stricken retired Dublin doctor and campaigner for cuthanasia who went to the Far East to kill himself to return home to Ireland.

Dr Paddy Leahy faced surgery after an earlier operation failed to stop the return of cancer. In a recorded interview, broadcast on Tuesday on Irish radio, the retired GP said that he was going to end his life in Thailand. He had taken regular holidays there over the past 20 years and regarded it as a second home.

But yesterday the secretary-general of the Thai Medical Council emphasised that euthanasia was illegal there and said that the majority of Thai people saw it as "unethical and socially unacceptable". his wish to die. Afterwards he said

return home. It was unclear last night where Dr Leahy was, or if he had already carried out his plan.

Dr Leahy had been an outspoken supporter of euthanasia in Ireland in recent years. He had indicated his plan privately to friends and family some time ago. In the radio interview he said:

decided that it's the best way." He said he knew of other doc-

tors in Ireland who would have helped him to die but did not want to put them at risk by involving he retired in 1990. Dr Leaby was

vealed that several years earlier he contraception, and was also a had helped a friend who had suffered a serious stroke bring about

He also urged the Irishman to that he had been approached by numerous people with terminal illnesses who wanted to die.

He said he had been involved in 50 cases of euthanasia, and claimed every county in Ireland had a doctor who would be prepared to help such patients die. Dr Leahy argued that eu-

class suburb of Ballyfermot until a prominent campaigner in the Two years ago, Dr Leahy re- Seventies for the introduction of vocal critic of private medicine. — Alan Murdoch

thanasia should be left up to the "common sense" of doctors and "Emotionally I'm fragile and I've patients, rather than be subject to

A GP in the Dublin working-

UPDATE

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Young single men struggle to be fathers

Young single men want to be good fathers to their children even when they do not live with them. But they face a range of barriers to do so, ac-

cording to the Family Policy Studies Centre. While the public debate over single parents has escalated, fathers have been largely invisible says the report. Yet the 40 young fathers interviewed by the centre said that they felt strongly about their relationship with their children and wanted to be there for them. Many of the men carried out a complex balancing act as their involvement with their children could be jeopardised if they took another job or set up home in another part of the

However, housing, jobs and social attitudes all impact on young fathers' abilities to be involved while agencies focus on mothers and do not offer much support to young fathers. "What's striking about the young fathers in this study is that they want to be good dads," said Ceridwen Roberts, director of the Family Policy Studies Centre. "They want their children to grow up knowing their father and having a relationship with him - but they find the odds stacked against them. We need to help young dads take on their responsibilities."

 "Young Single Fathers: Participation in fatherhood – barriers and bridges"; Family Policy Studies Centre, 231 Baker Street, London, NW1 6XE; 49.95 — Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent plus £1.50 p&p



HEALTH

'Voices' that warned of tumour

A woman who heard voices telling her there was something wrong was later diagnosed with a brain tumour despite the scepticism of her GP.

The unnamed woman had first accepted counselling and medication fearing she was going mad, but when the voices returned after she had gone on holiday, she went back to her doctor and demanded a brain scan. He reluctantly agreed and was criticised by colleagues for accepting what his patient's hallucinatory voices were telling her - until the scan disclosed the tumour.

Writing in the British Medical Journal . the GP, Dr Ikechukwu Azuonye describes how the woman was operated on successfully and made a full recovery. On regaining consciousness, she heard voices for the last time when she claimed they told her: "We are pleased to have helped you.

- Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

PSYCHOLOGY

Syndrome that may explain evil

A start to understanding the nature of evil is proposed by a neurosurgeon who has coined a new term = Syndrome E - to describe outbreaks of extreme violence.

Professor Itzhak Fried, of the University of California, says in the Lancet that events such as those in Rwanda, Nazi Germany, and Cambodia have certain features in common. These include repetitive violence, obsessive ideas, and group contagion. He believes the symptoms are due to a "cognitive fracture" between different parts of the brain, and that the syndrome warrants further study. --- Jeremy Laurance

TOURIST RATES Australia (dollars) 2,801 2.41 Italy (lira) 19.96 Austria (schillings) 207.69 Japan (yen) Belgium (francs) Malta (lira) Netherlands (guilders) Canada (\$) 2.29 3.20 Cyprus (pounds) 0.83 Norway (kroner) 11.68 Denmark (kroner) 10.89 Portugal (escudos) 287.91 France (francs) 240.00 9.51 Spain (pesetas) Germany (marks) 285 Sweden (kroner) Greece (drachmei) 451.41 Switzerland (francs) Hong Kong (\$) 12.40 Turkey (lira) 321.843 Ireland (punts) 1.10 USA (\$)

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Gambaccini returns to his Classic roots

Paul Gambaccini, the former Radio 3 disc jockey who was once described as "the most hated man on radio", is returning to the rival station Classic FM in the new year.

American-born Gambaccini, 48, was axed from Radio 3's Morning Collection show last September, less than a year after his arrival which triggered a barrage of protest.

He was brought in as part of sweeping modernisation, but traditionalists complained that he was taking the station downmarket and expressed hostility to his accent and intimate presenting style.

The former Radio I presener responded by branding them the least civilised and most bigoted audience I have encountered in 25 years of broadcasting".

Gambaccini, who starts at Classic on 10 January, first worked for the station five years ago when it was launched.

Asked if he felt vindicated by Classic's decision to appoint him, Gambaccini said: "I do not think about Radio 3, it is behind me. There are lots of things to do in life and harbouring ill thoughts about something that happened two years ago seems to me to require therapy.

"Do I regret choosing a bad restaurant two years ago? No. of course not. I'm proud to be returning to Classic FM. Helping make it a success was one of the highlights of my career."

He will host Classic Countdown on Saturdays and, on Sundays, Countdown Top Ten. taking over from Nick Bailey. - Alexandra Williams



"COOL OUT".

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley



Nobel la

Revolution alters as CD-Roms all to excite the young

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John Tre cares Provider & locks \$5 Secure 12 : Miles

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3/LEADING STORIES

Nobel laureate says UK is stalling on landmines

Labour has made much of its ethical approach to arms dealing and the abolition of landmines. However, Steve Boggon finds that some in the worldwide anti-mines movement think the Government isn't doing enough.

gle to be father,

of tumour

explain evil

A British Nobel peace laureate has accused the Government of dragging its feet over the ratification of a treaty designed to ban the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of landmines.

Rae McGrath, who delivered the Nobel lecture on behalf of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which won

Blair's government was lagging behind others in ensuring that the treaty was incorporated into international law.

The treaty was signed by Britain and 121 other countries in Ottowa, Canada, two weeks ago, but Mr McGrath remains critical of Mr Blair and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. In order to become law by December 1988 - the date earmarked by landmine campaigners - 40 countries must adopt it as domestic law by June next year.

Labour insists that it intends Britain to be one of these 40, but Mr McGrath, one of the founders of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) - so beloved of the late Diana, Princess of Wales - told The Independent that he felt the Gov-

the peace prize, said yesterday that Tony ernment would not make the deadline.

"They did sign it only two weeks ago, but the details and content of the treaty were actually drawn up at a conference in Oslo last September," he said. "That gave the bureaucrats plenty of time to frame the legislation necessary for a Bill to be presented to Parliament as soon as the treaty was signed. But, as far as we can tell, nothing has happened."

Mr McGrath, a former army engineer and one of the founders of ICBL, was chosen to give a lecture to the Nobel committee in Oslo earlier this month following the award of the £625,000 peace prize to the American Jody Williams and the ICBL, which she co-ordinates. He said: "I simply can't understand it. Here is a perfect op-

portunity for Robin Cook to show his ethical credentials, but either he or his civil servants appear to be dragging their feet. Canada, Ireland and Mauritius have already ratified the treaty, so why haven't we?"

Mr McGrath was supported by the Mines Advisory Group, which said that Macedonia, Italy, Austria, Norway and Belgium were close to ratifying the treaty.

"At the moment, we have a moratorium on landmines in the UK, but there is a coda that says our troops may use them in 'exceptional circumstances' until the treaty becomes international law," said Tim Carstairs, International Policy and Research Officer. "I find that no less than despicable, given that we haven't done anything

According to the Red Cross, 2,000 people are maimed or killed by landmines every month - or one every 20 minutes. There are now more than 119 million hidden landmines in more than 70 countries, the worst affected being Iran (16 million mines), Angola (15 million), Iraq (10 million), Afghanistan (10 million), Cambodia (10 million), Bosnia Herzegovina (up to 6 million) and Egypt, which is thought to have up to 23 million, many left over from the El Alamein campaign during the Second

World War. The Foreign Office said criticism of the Government was unfair as it was committed to ratifying the treaty, but a spokesman was unable to say whether the June deadline would be met.

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

48 hours in Munich TIME OFF



May your God go with you **MAGAZINE**

Give them a green gift TIME OFF

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Revolution falters as **CD-Roms** fail to excite the young

CD-Rom, the 'edutainment' medium for the new Millennium, appears to be losing its lustre. Dorling Kindersley, a one-time trailblazer, yesterday announced that it was shedding jobs in its multimedia division. Cathy Newmon asks whether CD-Roms have a future.

In theory, the CD-Rom is the ideal entertainment medium: words, pictures, sound, animation, film clips and graphics. All on a little silver disc you slip into your computer. Small wonder then that information technology (IT) and publishing companies scrambled in the early-Nineties to get into what many saw as a sales goldmine.

But, increasingly, it seems they were pursuing fools' gold. Dorling Kindersley's announcement yesterday that it was shedding 85 jobs in its multimedia division is only the latest in a series of blows to hit CD-Rom

doch's global media empire, scaled down CD-Rom production at the beginning of the year. The big United States publisher, McGraw-Hill, was forced to rethink its multimedia operations last summer because it was struggling to get shelf space in stores for its entertainment CDs.

Matthew Richards, editor of PC Guide, explains: "Multimedia hasn't lived up to the expectations publishers had for it. Two to three years ago it was seen as the Holy Grail. Sales just haven't backed that up at all."

Part of the problem stems from book publishers' assumption that all they had to do was transcribe their books onto a disc. The results were boring to look at and difficult to use.

Andreas Whittam-Smith, founder of The Independent, and chairman of Notting Hill, an electronic publishing company, says: "If all you're doing is putting a book on the screen, as many have done, it's no good at

Many CD-Rom publishers have also got it badly wrong in assuming people would buy weird and wonderful titles, few of which appeal to the mainstream consumer.

Roland Waddilove, editor of PC Home, estimates that only around the top 10 per cent of CD-Roms - titles like Microsoft's encyclopedia, Encarta - make any money. Some companies have sold fewer than a hundred of some of their more obscure offerings. Little wonder, he says, that they are now weeding out unsuccessful titles.



market. "People are much happier clicking onto the Internet rather than spending between £30 and £40 on a CD-Rom," Richards adds. Despite the general disappointment some publishers, such as Europress which makes a range of edutainment discs called Fun School - have managed to make

a go of it. Its CD-Rom, International Rally Championship, is rubbing shoulders with the best-selling games on disc. So despite the bandwagon having come to a jarring halt several times, aficionados

believe the new medium still has something going for it. As Matthew Richards explains: You can do things with CD-Roms you just can't do with books." Dorling Kinderslev is putting a brave face

on vesterday's job cuts. Rod Hare, group managing director of Dorling, takes heart from upheat forecasts for UK CD-Rom sales, which are predicted to grow from 43 million this year to 60 million next.

He is confident that Dorling will do well out of the CD-Rom market, not least because of the firm's direct-selling operation where sales staff demonstrate discs in potential buyers' homes.

The main problem, from the manufacturer's if not the customer's point of view. is that CD-Roms are selling for less than they used to. "Retail prices have come down," he says, "so revenue generated is



CD-Rom from Dorling Kindersley

their top-selling products and forgetting the rest," Mr Waddilove says.

Another reason customers have left CD-Roms gathering dust on the shelf is that they have begun to get their first - and often cheaper - taste of true interactivity via the

The World Wide Web, Mr Richards believes, is far more appealing to new media "I think we'll see companies focusing on enthusiasts than many CD-Roms on the less than we'd like it to be".

ARMANI



Cyberpets superseded as girls seek perfect boy for virtual romance

He is your ideal man. You can mould him into a gorgeous hunk and be the envy of all your girifriends – and all for less than £20. The catch? He only exists in cyberspace. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs

Correspondent, looks at the latest craze to sweep Japan – the virtual boyfriend.

It has been described as "boyfriend tamagotchi" – a virtual bean whom girls can make

into the hank of their dreams. But like the virtual pets that took Britain by storm earlier this a "love love romance game [sic] year, you have constantly to look

after your boyfriend to keep him happy and make sure he grows up nice and polite. Or at least that's how it works in Princess Club Pocket 2, "Operation Boyfriend Makeover" - a game aimed at high school girls which is played on the hand-held Gameboy console.

According to Atlus, the company that developed Operation Boyfriend Makeover for Nintendo, you have a year to turn your virtual boyfriend into a desirable Adonis so you can look good together on graduation day.

There's a note of warning however - if you screw up, he could end up with a greasy biker or, horrors of horrors, a boy who likes to pick flowers. In the words of the press release: it's ... that will make you giggle".

So how do you do this? Ba- who has the cutest guy. You do sically Operation Boyfriend Makeover works through conversation and role-playing.

You meet your virtual boyfriend at school, listen to what he says, spot the hints that he may be about to do something naff, and advise him not to. You even guess where he might hang out when he's not in school, and go there.

You pick up information about him through your virtual girifriends, to see whether he has the right sort of hobbies and personality. You give him pre-

sents, hoping that they will be the right son and he won't throw them back in your face. Players also get to compile a photo album of key romantic moments with their virtual

boyfriends, and to swap notes

get to go on a date together, but feminist thinking hasn't made much headway in Operation Boyfriend Makeover so you can't ask him out - you have to manipulate the conversation in such a way that he asks you out. Dr Mark Griffiths, senior

lecturer in psychology at Nottingham Trent University warned that virtual boyfriends was not necessarily a "healthy "How do people then cope

in the real world?" he asked. "Virtual relationships do not work like real relationships ... By producing the ideal date you're conditioning someone as you go along, turning them into someone you want them to be.

There are no plans yet to with their virtual mates to see bring the £19 game to Britain.

Loophole condemns rail commuters to increases in fares

Passengers on the privatised rail network were supposed to be saved from aboveinflation fare rises. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, explains why legislative small print will see thousands of London's commuters face increases of up to 10 per cent.

Travellers on one of the capital's busiest rail routes will see inflation-busting fare rises thanks to a loophole which allows train operators to claw back fare decreases implemented by British Rail in previous years.

The move came to light after the train firms run by the French industrial giant Connex sent details of the fares, to start in January next year, to passenger watchdogs.

Connex operates two commuter train companies, South Central and South Eastern. which ferry 160,000 passengers into and out of the capital every day. On average the company's South Central franchise

THE PRICE OF RAIL TRAVEL

Oxted to London: Seven-day season ticket rise - 9.1 per cent Crystal Palace to London: return rise - 6.7 per cent East Grinstead to London: single ticket - 7.6 per cent

cent this year. However, passengers travelling from East Croydon and West Croydon to London will face the doubledigit increase, and single fares from Wallington to Sutton will go up by 8.3 per cent. Connex said the 10 per cent

Croydon rise was within the fare adjusting regulations as the fare had actually been reduced in 1997 compared with previous years. Another company, Silverlink, will increase its Kensal Green to Central London peak single fare by 8 per cent. It said that 4 per cent of that rise was due to the fare increases levied by London Underground.

Despite the rises, the London Regional Passengers Committee (LRPC) does not blame the companies. Instead, Sir will only raise fares by 4.5 per Alan Greengross, the committee's chairman, attacked the previous government for the fares "fiasco".

The Rail Users' Consultative Committee for Southern England was also critical, saying that many passengers faced 5 per cent increases "despite experiencing cancellations, overcrowding and short trains".

In October, train companies were allowed to put up tickets on lines which were performing well by as much as 2 per cent above July's inflation figure of 3.3 per cent. Some companies have decided not to raise fares. Thames Trains - which runs services from Oxford to London will not increase ticket prices. Passenger watchdogs called

on ministers to act over the price rises. Rufus Barnes, secretary of the LRPC, said: "If the government is serious about getting people to use public transport then it should stop these sort of rises taking place.' ● The threat of industrial action

on South West Trains ended yesterday when the Rail, Maritime and Transport union accepted a deal on hours and pay. The RMT said staff would work only a 37-hour week in January and receive a 4 per cent pay rise from 5 January - four months earlier than expected.



This 1946 picture of Ingrid Bergman, taken by the war photographer Robert Capa, who was also her lover, fetched £805 last night at a Bonhams auction of photographs covering 50 years of the Magnum picture agency

Unionists attack plan to curb parades

New film

Water of the latter track

Plans to try to avoid parades in Northern Ireland becoming a clashpoint for sectarian violence came under Unionist fire in the Commons yesterday.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble branded the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Bill "the most serious" and substantial assault on the civil rights of the people of Northern Ireland this century".

The Bill, which has aircasty completed its Lords stages, sets up a Parades Commission to arbitrate as a last resort on disputed marches.

New asylum housing rule

Councils will get the option to move asylum seekers into temporary council housing when they have a duty to accommodate them, the housing minister, Hilary Armstrong, announced last night.

She said she was relaxing the rules, in response to the Association of London Government because some authorities were having difficulty finding accommodation for asylum-seekers.

£Ibn target for Lottery

The Government said yesterday that it was planning to channel £1bn into new good causes under its proposals to create a "People's Lottery".

The Lottery Bill was given an unopposed second reading in the House of Lords, but fears were expressed that the changes would mean less cash for the arts. sport, heritage and charities.

Woman in Army HIV scare seeks apology after test proves 'negative'

One of two women at the cen- apology from the Army. The tre of an Aids alert at one of the deputy commander of Catter-Army's biggest bases said yesterday that tests had proved she Colonel Neil Donaldson, had was free of the HIV virus.

Lindsey Griffiths. 19, said that in the light of the blood test from "females known to be libresults she was demanding an eral with their affections to

ick Garrison in North Yorkshire, given a warning to troops of a significant risk to their health

soldiers", and believed to be HIV positive.

Yesterday, the Army issued statement saying that the identity of the women was not known to it, nor had it speculated on their identity.

It added: "The Army has a

of possible health risks and hence issued confidential and written warnings. The welfare - put through. I never thought I of soldiers is a priority and it is had the virus but once the rufor that reason the statement was issued."

Ms Griffiths, who says she

duty of care to warn its soldiers has a steady boyfriend, said: "I think an apology is the least they owe me after what I have been mour starts people will believe

to be found in Britain. About 14

An ancient ancestor of today's of the 10m high trees were dis-Christmas tree has been uncovered at RJB Mining's Prior's Close site at Great Lumley in

310-million-year-old trees dug up

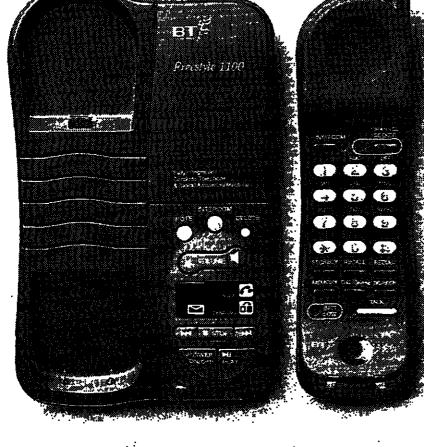
covered at an opencast mine. The conifers, believed by experts to date from 310 million years ago, are now extinct. The fossilised remains are the first

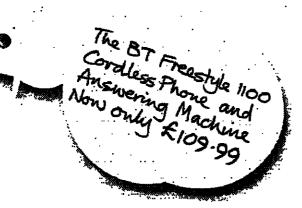
Tons of the fossils have been sent to the Geological Survey's Edinburgh headquarters.

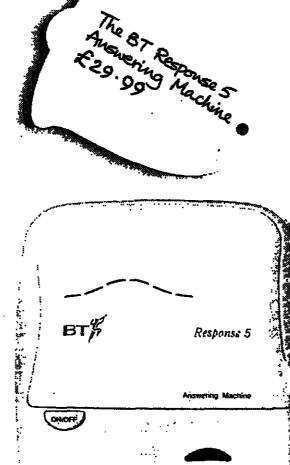
Co Durham, at depths of be-

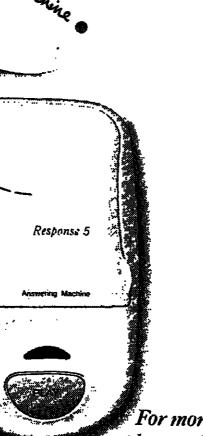
tween 5 and 33m.

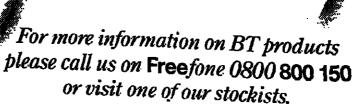
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High hopes to

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5/CENSORSHIP

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or Lottery

New film watchdog more bothered by violence than sex

Britain's new film censor is far more concerned about violence than sex on screen. But Andreas Whittam Smith may find his tolerance of the latter tested when he faces up to his first controversial judgement on the new version of Lolita. He talked to Media Editor Rob Brown about the challenges of his new post.

Andreas Whittam Smith is, by his own admission, much more squeamish than most cinemagoers when it comes to watching films. Up to now, he has tended to avoid anything involving gore and violence. So he had to think long and hard about

abandoning this life-long policy and making a tough New Year resolution to confront all the awful images he studiously avoided for the first 60 years of his life.

"I am going to see some disgraceful things," said the new president of the British Board of Film Classification, with more than a hint of disgust in his voice. "I will, for example, have to distinguish

between varying degrees of bondage. But I hope to preserve a certain innocence and not be hardened by what I watch." For some, this statement will confirm the "very saintly" reputation which this cler-

founded The Independent just over a decade ago and committed this title to a range of rigorous ethical policies, such as

gyman's son developed soon after he concern about video violence is evidently shared by a growing percentage of the

His outlook is certainly shared by the a boycott of the lobby system at Westmin- Home Secretary, Jack Straw, who apster, which some rival publications lam- pointed him specifically to address what he ed to relate to issues of violence because

public concern on this issue.

"I regard this as an important job and see my prime task as helping parents to regulate their children's viewing," said Mr Whittam Smith, adding: "Rows have tendpooned as pious. But Mr Whittam Smith's saw as the BBFC's failure to respond to there is growing research evidence that vi-

olent images do affect behaviour. There is with the new version of Lolita, due for clasno evidence that sex on screen has the same sification in this country in April. harmful effect." He is referring to sex between consenting adults; of course, paedophilia is different, which is why he and dophilia is at the front of many people's his fellow board members will have to think minds," said Mr Whittam Smith, who

"I don't know what we'll do about that one, but obviously the problem of paelong and hard before deciding what to do plans to watch the earlier adaptation of

Well-connected: Andreas Whittam Smith, founder of The Independent, who takes over on I January as Britain's new film censor Photograph: John Voos

Nabokov's controversial novel before passing judgement on the latest version, star-

ring Jeremy Irons. Whatever decision they reach it shouldn't be too long before we are told

the reasons behind it. In a dramatic shift from away from its traditional policy, the BBFC will start to offer up a public explanation for its most

controversial decisions. The man who championed freedom of information in his time at the helm of this newspaper is strongly in favour of such glasnost: "Obviously, we can't throw every decision open for debate as we go along, or nothing would ever get classified, but we should, retrospectively leave a trail behind us, because we have quite an influence on what people in this country get to see."

He has seen three films in the past month - L4 Confidential, One-Night Stand and The Full Monty - which he describes as "completely representative" of his general taste in films. Film buffs will observe that this is a fairly varied choice, but the trio have all one thing in common: none depended on extreme violence for impact.

HALF PRICE

High hopes that tide can be turned

Can Britain's new film censor about elected councils in this make a real difference in what appears on Britain's screens, big and small? The Home Secretary obviously has high hopes that Andreas Whittam Smith can do something to stem the mounting tide of video violence.

His first crucial decision as president of the BBFC-a post he takes up on 1 January - will be to appoint a new director to replace the man who has effectively controlled film censorship in this country for the past two decades - Americanborn James Ferman.

banned by some local authori-

rogative and will continue to ex- on experience in this area and ercise it. "I want the board to plans to bring it to bear in his he very in touch with local au- new role. thorities," says Mr Whittam

He is certainly more relaxed at the switch".

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country having some say about what films get screened in their neighbourhoods than he is about Brussels bureaucrats taking over this task.

Although a Europhile, he firmly opposes calls for a pan European film and video classification system.

"I see this as a perfect example of an area in which the principle of subsidiarity should favour regulation by individual countries rather than EU institutions," he says.

Britain's new film censor is Mr Ferman, 67, sparked a certainly aware of the fundamajor controversy this year mental challenges the commuwhen he approved the highly nications revolution is throwing film Crash. This film was later Having founded an electronic publishing company called Notting Hill Media with his eldest Councils still retain that pre- son Ben, he has a lot of hands-

> In Andreas Whittam Smith's own words, he "won't be asleep

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Teachers furious at English marking errors

Almost 12,000 pupils were given the wrong grades in this year's English tests for 14-yearolds, new figures have

revealed. Now officials have conceded that markers must be given more training. Fran Abrams looks at a problem which has infuriated head teachers.

New rules are being drawn up on how pupils' English papers

Football

club to

invest in

schools

Premiership champions Manchester United are to invest in a secondary school as part of the Government's specialist schools

programme, it was revealed The football club is to pro-

vide £100,000 in sponsorship for Ashton on Mersey School in

Trafford. The school, one of six new specialist sports colleges, has strong links with Manches-

ter United - two former pupils are members of the team.

specialist colleges for technology, arts and languages, bring-

government initiative for the development of specialised facil-

ities in schools. In each case, the

Since the scheme began in

ing the total to nearly 300.

The announcement came as Estelle Morris, the education minister, revealed plans for 33

In 1995, the first year after revised upwards. exam boards were given re-Last year there were just 25,000 tions and Curriculum Author- mark changes. ity thought matters were

But this year, another 42,000 12,000 pupils - two per cent of tightened up from next year.

of 150,000 complaints in just were wrong. The vast majority will have had their marks

The number of mistakes sponsibility for marking the made by maths and science tests, there were almost 72,000 markers were much smaller. In complaints, almost 20,000 of maths, there were 1,200 comwhich turned out to be valid. plaints and just six mark changes, while in science there complaints, and the Qualifica- were 4.200 complaints and 30

A spokeswoman for the authority said last night that marking procedures for Key Stage papers had to be remarked and Three English tests would be

following year.

There will be much better training of markers and supervisors, a lot more compulsory checking of supervisors' work and more checks before the scripts are released to schools,"

This year, problems were detected in May after pupils sat the tests, and a sample of 10,000 papers were held back and checked. But despite that, there had still been complaints.

Ann Barnes, general secre-

should be marked, after a total—were told their results—Similar changes would be made—tary of the National Association of 150 (to)—made—tary of the National Association too few pupils seemed to have been awarded the higher levels. six and seven, but more had

been awarded level five. Many schools had written to the association to complain, she said. But often teachers did not even bother to complain because they felt the tests were

largely a waste of time. If they were taking it seriously we would expect far more complaints. I think it is very rash to take no notice of your results, but certainly that is

what schools are doing," she

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said the Government was operating a "high-cost, low-value" system. Of the £13.4m spent on tests for 14 year-olds, £9.4m went on marking. Tests for seven-year-olds cost £36 per papil while just £17 per pupils wa

spent on books. "There are clearly question-marks both about value for money we are getti and the accuracy and effi cy of the exercise," he sa



Jolly hockey-sticks: Specialist schools and colleges are being paid for with public and private cash

Government matches private with which Ms Morris pro- their schools." sponsorship pound for pound. and adds £100 per pupil up to fessed herself to be "delighted"

private sector, an achievement sors can work with and support

All state-maintained seca maximum £100,000 each year. yesterday. But, she said, the in- ondary schools are eligible, but Government. Yesterday's advolvement of the private sector they must first raise £100,000 September 1993, more than is important "not just in terms private-sector sponsorship and the first since the relaunch of the expertise at the colleges.

£30m has been raised from the of cash, but also because spon-prepare a three-year develop-scheme in the White Paper, Exment plan. In return, successcellence in Schools, in July. ful applicants receive a further £100,000 capital grant from the scheme will benefit other local

schools which will have access benefits of specialism well beditions to the programme are to the resources, facilities and

The education minister said

yesterday: "Our new criteria emphasises links with the community which will carry the

Councils given clean air deadline

Councils have been given sev- road closures and vehicle bans. A prisoner who was found dead acute kidney failure due to en years to clean up their air are not anticipated. with Parliamentary approval of new air quality regulations this week. They now have a duty to take action to stop levels of seven key air pollutants from breaching limits set by the drivers can be issued with fixed Government.

Councils are being asked to collaborate with their neighbours in setting up Air Quality Management Areas to cover the places with Britain's dirtiest air. If they fail to deliver by 2005, the law gives ministers powers to step in and order the necessary actions to curb pollution.

find ways of bringing air qual-nuclear submarine officers. ity up to standard. Emergency

south-east London, could not be

bothered to cook his baked

tin and tucked in. Pulling out

what he thought was a piece of

string, he got a shock. At the end

of his fork dangled a tomato-

The food had been prepared

Lincolnshire, for supermarket

giant Sainsbury. Mr Howard had

ber last year at the New Cross

ty Act. On 15 December,

Lewisham Council charged

branch in south London.

bought the Sainsbury's own-

sauce sodden mouse.

Councils have recently been given legal powers to stop and test vehicles at the roadside, to see if their exhaust emissions penalty notices. But council staff will have to accompanied by police officers when they do this.

 The Ministry of Defence has applied for government permission to decommission and remove a small nuclear reactor located near the heart of London. The reactor in Greenwich's Royal Naval College, In the main, councils are ex-known as Jason, has been used pected to use existing powers to for more than 30 years to train attached, in which he remained --- Nicholas Schoon

the company, £8,000.

A Sainsbury's spokesperson

one of our top priorities. Any

foreign object found in our

products is taken very serious-

ly and as soon as we knew

there was a problem we

launched an investigation with

tins from the same batch have

how it got in, but since bean

starch was found in its stomach

during the investigation, clear-

The mouse had been boiled

been removed from sale.

Food firm fined £8,000 for dead mouse found in tin of baked beans

Accidental death verdict on prisoner A disturbed teenager who was Carlton Hays psychiatric unit in jailed for life after killing a busi-

after being handcuffed in a leather body belt for 24 hours was accidentally killed, an in-

quest jury decided yesterday. But the dead man's family are meet the legal standard. If not, to sue the prison authorities and, with their legal team, boycotted the hearing's conclusion after moves to have a verdict of unlawful killing made available to the jury were refused.

Dennis Stevens, 29, an Afro-Caribbean of Bristol, was restrained by prison officers at Dartmoor jail, after punching one of them, the Exeter inquest was told. He was placed in the body belt, which had handcuffs until he was found dead the following morning. He died from

muscle damage which aggravated a blood condition.

Stevens, who had been visually checked every 15 minutes, was found in a cell at the Devon jail on 18 October 1995. He was serving a 12-year sentence for robbery and possessing a firearm and was due for release in August, 1996.

Helen Shaw, a director of the pressure group Inquest, said body belts were a "medieval rel-

which should be outlawed. John May, area manager of Prison Service Wales and West, said a police and internal inquiry had found no evidence to justify disciplinary proceedings. — Jason Bennetto

Crime Correspondent

Mental patient's care criticised

properly assessed by doctors, an independent inquiry has found.

care of James Stemp - who was 17 when he killed John Dawson, from Carlton, Nottingham, in October 1995 - identifies a series of failures to keep track of

care of Leicestershire Mental Health Services Trust. Stemp had been referred to

nessman "for kicks" was not ferent casualty departments complaining of a head injury in February, 1995. He was dis-Yesterday's report into the charged nine days later, with no follow-up arrangements.

He was re-referred to Carlton Hays after going back to a casualty department, but there was no record of his treatment him as he moved through the and he was discharged in April 1995 after failing to attend. — Glenda Cooper

Social Affairs Correspondent

DAILY POEM

Case History

by Dannie Abse

an inferior breed, doctor." He did not know I was Welsh. Then he praised the architects of the German death-camps did not know I was a Jew. He called liberals, "White blacks", and continued to invent curses.

"Most Welshmen are worthless,

I felt the soft liver of Goering; when I lifted my stethoscope I heard the heartbeats of Himmler, when I read his encephalograph l thought, "Sieg heil, mein Führer,"

When I palpated his liver

In the clinic's dispensary red berry of black bryons, cowhane, deadly nightshade, deathcap. Yet I prescribed for him as if he were my brother.

Later that night I must have slept on my arm; momentarily my right hand lost its cunning.

The Daily Poems today and tomorrow come from Seren's new selection from Dannie Abse's poems about his native Wales, Welsh Retrospective (Seren Books, £6.95).



Robert Howard, of Brockley, Greenwich magistrates fined

bean snack. He just opened the said yesterday: "Food safety is

by HL Foods in Long Sutton, HL Foods." More than 12.000

brand baked beans in Novem- in the tin. No one knows exactly

HL Foods under the Food Safe- ly greed was its downfall.

(centre spread, tabloid section.)



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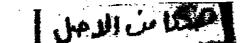
- Kotherine Griffiths Robert Howard found in his Sainsbury's baked beans

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7/SEX & DRINK

Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep in The Bridges of Madison County. A Welsh study links sex with longevity

The truth about sex: more of it makes you live longer

Sex adds years to life as well as life to years. Jeremy Lourance, Health Editor, considers research which shows that men who have more orgasms live longer.

Sex is good for you and quantity does matter - at least for middle-aged men, according to a study in Wales. They cut their risk of dving by 36 per cent more than a third - for every 100 orgasms they have a year.

The finding could mean the addition of "at least twice a week" to the usual health advice given by doctors of "at least five a day" (pieces of fruit and years. The researchers found

three" (drinks). But the researchers caution that before sex becomes available on prescription furings needs to be done. They also warn of the potential destabilising effects on society.

The study of nearly 1,000 men aged 45 to 59 in Caerphilly and neighbouring villages found those who reported "high orgasmic frequency" twice a week or more - had half the risk of dying over the next 10 years compared with those who had "low orgasmic frequency", less than once a month. The men were questioned as part of a larger study between 1979 and 1983 and 150 of them died in the next 10

veg) and "no more than two or that the risk of dying was directly related to the number of orgasms - the more they had the lower the risk.

George Davey Smith and ther work to confirm the find- Stephen Frankel, professors of epidemiology at Bristol University, and Dr John Yarnell of Queens University, Belfast, say in the British Medical Journal, that their finding is in line with most previous research which has shown that longevity is linked with frequency of sex in men but with enjoyment of intercourse in women.

The finding runs counter to much folk wisdom that the pleasure of male intercourse is secured at the cost of wellbeing. In the early 20th century the idea that sexual restraint preserved vigour gained scientific respectability. The poet

WB Yeats was one of the most famous patients to undergo an operation known as the Steinach procedure to tie the vas deferens - the tube linking the testicles with the penis. This produced a physiological form of celibacy said to stimulate sexual performance. In Yeats case it appears to have been successful as he became known to Dubliners as "the gland old man".

In a commentary on the Caerphilly study two specialists from Kings College School of Medicine, London pour cold water on the findings. They say that declining sexual activity could be a sign rather than a cause of ill health leading to death. "Sexual activity is downstream in the direction of causality from disease."

... and a few drinks can be a good medicine, too

Christmas drinkers can celebrate - modestly. Britain's most famous medical researcher has concluded that alcohol is good medicine. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, explains how it can prevent disease.

There is now "massive evidence" that a couple of drinks a day is good for health, according to Sir Richard Doll, the UK's most eminent epidemiol-

It does not matter whether the drink is beer, wine or spir- benefit from drinking wine, its - it is the alcohol that confers the protective effect, shown. principally by reducing heart disease and stroke. Two or three drinks a day is the ideal - cutting heart disease in men over 45 by a third - after which gaining the greatest benefit, mortality starts to rise again be- while beer and spirit drinkers cause of an increase in diseases tend to bi associated with alcohol, such as a week. cirrhosis of the liver and oral cancer. But only when con- ple should be treated as adults sumption rises to seven drinks and should be told the facts. a day does mortality for the These still need to be refined in drinker exceed that for a detail but in broad outline they teetotaller.

care criticised

The optimum level of drinkliver damage and a higher risk which it is taken."

of breast cancer, which increases by 10 per cent for each drink additional to the optimum taken on average each day. A drink is equivalent to a half pint of beer, small glass of wine or single measure of spirits.

There is no evidence that drinking reduces mortality in people under 45 who are at lower risk of dying from heart disease. Since drinking at all levels increases the risk of accidents, in younger people, this outweighs any benefit to the heart.

Sir Richard, whose work 20 years ago established the link between smoking and lung cancer, says in the British Medical Journal, that there is no greater despite what some studies have

The apparent benefit derives from different styles of drinking. Wine drinkers tend to drink small amounts regularly,

are quite clear.

"In middle and old age, ing for women is somewhat some small amount of alcohol lower, partly because of their within the range of one to four smaller size but also because drinks each days reduces the they have a lower risk of beart risk of premature death, disease, greater susceptibility to irrespective of the medium in

Agony and ecstasy

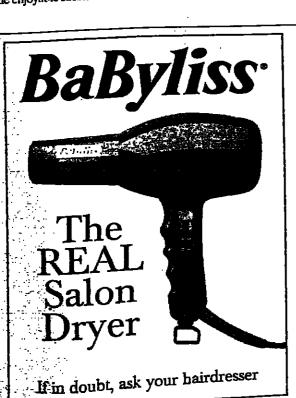
Christmas and help psychologists drink but feel guilty about it. count the cost of having a good time. At least 100 people are being asked to help researchers at adding that the study would the University of Hull understand the relationship between able feelings are mixed up with drinking, laughter and health.

One of the aims, according to Dr Geoff Lowe who specialises in the study of pleasure and enjoyment, is to discover the extent to which the pleasure of eating and drinking is undermined by guilt.

"Sometimes people consume enjoyable substances such film.

Eat, drink and be merry this as naughty but nice food and Such feelings may contribute to ill health," said Dr Lowe, "help establish which pleasurguilt and the effect that has on

health." Dr Lowe's research will involve volunteers watching a humorous video while drinking controlled amounts of alcohol to see if it enlivens laughter. Others will be given no alcoholic drinks while watching the same - Esther Leach





Major likens Blair to Uriah Heep

Tony Blair has been likened to the hand-wringing and ever-so-humble Uriah Heep, the Dickensian character, by John Major. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, watches as the former prime minister returns to the fray.

One of the Prime Minister's key qualities, his ability to show and share his feelings, was condemned out of hand by his predecessor, Mr Major, in an interview with The Spectator

been ludicrous to have apologised for taking sterling into the European Exchange Rate of politicians apologising is sil- help and now, every day, they ly. Where does it end?

to the Irish - next, he'll probacolonies. Should we have a weekly apology spot on which touch with reality. Blair apologises to John

week? Is Uriah Heep running pose they think they are being

"As for Blair saying he was 'hurt' after the Formula One mentary opinion ... row, he never seemed hurt tions in public."

Christmas interview as Premost terrible moment of his months in office. "Instinct sustained me through that difficult period," he said.

Mr Major also accused Arguing that it would have Labour of being too scared to make good long-term decisions. "This is where they will come unstuck," he said. "Labour lied Mechanism, as Chancellor, in to the middle classes. They 1990, Mr Major said: "The idea made them all these promises of kick them in the pants. Brown's "Look at Blair, apologising wholly unnecessary Budget was as Baroness Thatcher or Sir Eda disgraceful raid on pension bly apologise to the Italians. funds. A higher rate of council Then they wanted the Queen to tax and the abolition of Tessas apologise to all our former is stupid and incredibly vindictive. They are completely out of

"I have calculated that

macho. I suppose that's why they refuse to bow to parlia-

As for his own party, Mr Maabout questioning the integri- jor agreed that there were secty of others. He shouldn't have tions of it that seemed to believe said it anyway. Politicians that its problems were mainly should never bare their emosetting out clear policies," he The interview coincided with said, "on benefit reform paran interview with Mr Blair in ticularly. Labour, for instance, yesterday's Sun - "his first pretends to be pro-women but actually their policies are sexmier" - in which he said that the ist. The Government wants to death of Princess Diana was the pay family credit through the wage packet, which means it will too often go entirely to men.

"These things are more important than presentation. The voters will become sick of slickness. It would be a terrible thing for the Tories to go in for slick trickery."

He said that his long-term ambition was to see the party back in office as soon as possible, and, asked whether that meant that he would not behave ward Heath had done, Mr Maior said: "I'm not commenting on Mrs Thatcher.

Asked whether he believed people should publicly criticise their successors, he replied: "No. I don't want to be seen as a twist-Humphrys for not having any- Labour is costing each middle- ed, bitter person who could nevthing to apologise about that class family £700 a month. I sup- er get used to losing office."



Robin Cook and Yasser Arafat, with his interpreter, answering questions after talks at the Foreign Office yesterday between the Palestinian. leader and the Foreign Secretary, at which Mr Arafat revealed a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process

Harman faces growing anger over disability cuts

rule out cuts in disability benefits as part of the Government's review of spending.

The Social Security Secretary told an all-party group of MPs Labour campaigner for the dis-

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growing anger from her own made it clear she was looking backbenchers after refusing to at ways of tightening up checks on some benefits, particularly incapacity benefit which has soared in cost to £8bn.

Lord Ashley, the veteran abled, warned after the meet-

Harriet Harman last night faced was not "cuts led" but she ing the Government was in for a long, angry and bitter battle if the disabled were targeted. "We asked Harriet Harman for a categorical undertaking

> fused to give that." Ms Harman said her review

abled into work, and she would not defend the status quo. The Cabinet agreed to press on with the changes to the welfare state. Union leaders yesterday that there would be no cuts in met the Prime Minister and out". disability benefits and she revoiced their concern over the political direction of the Gov-

was aimed at helping more dis-erument. John Monks, TUC general secretary who led the delegation, said unions wanted a review of the welfare state, but we don't want to see the most vulnerable people left

Colin Brown and

See Line

5'3' Fr. 5" 2" ?

DIXONS

First for New Technology

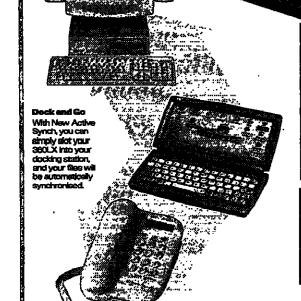
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Scotland's 'First Minister' The Scotland Bill setting THE KEY POINTS

up the first Scottish Parliament in 300 years was hailed as a 'radical' and 'historic' document by the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says Mr Dewar is the front runner to become the 'First Minister' of Scotland.

Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was firmly in the running to become the First Minister of Scotland after publishing the Bill to create the first Scottish Parliament in 300 years.

Mr Dewar and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, were rumoured to have met secretly over lunch to seal a Scottish version of the "Granita" pact in which Gordon Brown bowed to Mr Blair to run for the Labour leadership. It was claimed that Mr Cook would become First Minister while Mr Dewar opted for the less powerful post of speaker of the new Scottish Parliament.

Mr Dewar denied any pact, and sources close to both Mr Dewar and Mr Cook made it clear yesterday that Mr Dewar was still very much in the running for the post as chief minister in the executive for the Scottish Parliament.

Mr Dewar has never concealed his ambition to stand in the Scottish Parliament and showed no sign of bowing to Mr

The Foreign Secretary's friends said Mr Cook was "undecided" about whether to stand for the Scottish Parliament but was looking more likely he would opt to remain a key player in Westminster.

They will have to make up their minds within the next 12 months. Henry McLeish, the Scottish minister, said last night that the Labour Party will begin selecting candidates before tax. the end of next year for the elec-

Dewar is front-runner to be

 Four-year term; presiding officer like the Speaker; clerk-like chief executive; Scottish executive - first minister with other ministers appointed by him/her; power to raise up to 3p on income tax; main funding through Scottish Consolidated Fund by UK government. MPs with Scots seats will continue to be able to sit in Westminster but number of seats can be cut. Timetable: Royal Assent, second half 1998; elections first half 1999; Scots Parliament operational in 2000.

Powers: Scots Parliament will control health, education, local government, housing, social work, economic development, public bodies, tourism, air and sea transport, criminal law, prisons, environment, food standards, agriculture, sport and arts. No power over the Crown, UK Parliament, UK Foreign policy;

UK defence and national security, protection of borders; UK economy: employment legislation; social security policy; regulations of professions including doctors, UK transport; abortion, human fertilisation, embryology; nuclear safety and licensing of cinemas. ◆ The Scotland Bill confirms the overall supremacy of the

N'estminister Parliament and underpins the sovereignty of the Crown by ensuring that all Scottish Bills have to Royal Assent from the Queen before becoming Acts. Scottish Secretary will act as liaison minister with the new Parliament.

• It follows the lines set by the Government's White Paper in July. But it does make several changes. These include: allowing individuals to stand for election alongside political parties on the regional lists, used under the Parliament's new party list system of proportional representation; Parliament will be able to pass legislation on dangerous dogs; membership of judicial committee, which is to settle

disputes on Parliament's actions, adjusted to include senior judges. Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) may wish they had power over mainline services - the Scottish Office officials missed the launch in Glasgow because their sleeper train was delayed by snowdrifts outside Carlisle.

tions in the first half of 1999. It promised to give it a "fair. will be clear who is likely to be Labour's choice as First Minister before the Scottish voters go to the polls.

"Basically, we are looking at a situation were there would be no overall control by one party. The Labour Party will be the largest party but it will be less simple than having someone the Government wants who will go into that parliament as the First Minister." he said.

Mr Dewar said he was "elated" to be unveiling the proposals today and was looking forward immensely to the coming months.

The Bill's 40,000 words and 116 clauses fulfils Labour's manifesto commitment on devolution and puts into effect the referendum result supporting a parliament with powers to raise up to 3p in the pound in income

The Scottish National Party salaries review body.

wind", and it was broadly supported by Scottish Liberal Democrats, but the Tories, who lost all their seats in Scotland at the last election, threatened to fight it, unless the Government backs down and allows the legislation to be taken entirely on the floor of the Commons.

The SNP said the Tories could upset their members in Scotland if they were seen to use their majority in the Lords to block the legislation. Michael Ancram, the Tory spokesman on constitutional affairs, warned that the talks between the opposition and government whips would have to deliver

The site of the Scottish Parliament will be announced early in the new year, and the salaries for Scottish MPs will be decided by the Scottish Secretary on advice from the top

Inquiry urged into Tory 'conflict of interest'

A Labour MP who forced William Hague to move one of his frontbenchers over an alleged conflict of interests called for two more Tory spokesmen to be investigated by the Parliamentary Commissioner for

Standards, Sir Gordon Downey. Mr Hague switched Michael Fallon from the Trade and Industry portfolio to the Treasury after Denis MacShane, the MP for Rotherham, accused Mr Fallon of a conflict of interests in speaking on the minimum wage Bill while acting as a paid of interests by David Willetts, adviser to nursing homes, which had low-paid staff. Mr Fallon switched portfo-

lios with Tim Boswell, who was cy involved in employment law. a junior Treasury spokesman for the Tory party. But Mr Mac-Shane vesterday asked Sir Gordon to investigate a possible conflict of interest with Mr Boswell, a farmer, speaking on the minimum wage Bill because it applied to agricultural workers. He also sought an inquiry into a possible conflict

the Tories' employment spokesman for alleged links with a management consultan-

In a letter to Sir Gordon, he: said: "I believe there is a wider problem about Conservative shadow ministers who moonlight for employers or companies who in nearly all cases will stand to win or lose financially from much of the legislation passed by the House."

احكان الاجل

9/RUSHDIE'S FUTURE



ler to be nister'

ct of interest

Passions rise as Iran seeks new talks on death sentence

With the return of freedoms that almost cost him European Union ambassadors to Tehran, parliament's approval for his new job. Indeed, his 48-minute the Iranian government speech to the Iranian majlis this hopes to re-start summer - strangely ignored in negotiations over the the West - contained some memorable passages on freefatwa against British author Salman Rushdie. dom of speech. During his appearance, he **But as Our**

hears from the new

Iranian minister of

Rushdie affair has no

preciate the problems of the

other. Western diplomats in

Tehran want a letter from the

Iranians which effectively over-

turns the late Ayatollah Khome-

ini's fatwa against the author.

The Iranians are prepared to

put their names to a letter

which says that they are not go-

ing to kill Rushdie - but they will

not officially overturn a religious

edict. To do so could topple the

new government of President

Mohammad Khatami. Not to

do so, in the eyes of the EU, is

a re-affirmation of the death

sentence. One day, Rushdie

should write a novel about it.

ly that Iran will not execute any-

one regarding this fatwa,"

Seyyed Ataoliah Mohajerani

told me in his new Islamic

Guidance ministry. "But a fut-

wa from a religious authority is

not something to be cancelled

by a government - and the gov-

ernment of Iran cannot ignore

it or cancel it ... the book [The

Satanic Verses] is there and the

Imam Khomeini has passed

away - so it's not possible to can-

said at once, is no conservative. One of the most liberal figures

in the new Khatami govern-

ment, he is a former vice-

president for legal and parlia-

Mr Mohajerani, it should be

cel the fatwa."

"It was appounced official-

simple solutions.

was taunted for being "linked Correspondent in Tehran to liberals" and for proposing a dialogue with the United States - something which Pres-Islamic Guidance, Seyyed ident Khatami finally did last weekend. At one point, a ma-Ataollah Mohajerani, the jlis deputy demanded to know if Mr Mohajerani would personally kill Salman Rushdie if he came face-to-face with him. The future minister would not clarify his views on the matter. Everyone in Tehran under-During the same hearing, howstands the equation. And both ever, he stated baldly that the Iranians and the European "everybody who has accepted Union ambassadors are very pothe Islamic Republic and our lite at their talks about Salman country's constitution ... must Rushdie - because both ap-

> BY ROBERT **FISK**

be subject to tolerance ... I con-

demn the burning of book-

shops, the beating of university

lecturers and attacks on magazine offices."

In his conversation with me, Mr Mohajerani insisted that the fatwa was a religious decree. "Some religious leaders believe that if someone has humiliated the Prophet, if he repents, he could be forgiven this is a religious point of view," he said. Was this some kind of message for the religious leadership? Would it not have been better for Iran, I asked, if the fatwa had never been issued? There was a sharp smile from Mr Mohajerani. "If the book had not been written, there would have been no fatwa ispeople of the world have read sued," he said. "The negotia- intellectual freedom, his politit. Rushdie is still alive but tions with the European Union ical enemies now suggest that lover the fatwa against Rushdiel were stopped when the EU ambassadors left [after a German court had blamed Iran's re- ini. Anyone who advocates inligious leadership for planning the murder of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin]. Now we hope course, the more Khatami's

we can restart negotiations." The Khatami government, of mentary affairs, with a PhD in course, is well aware that the 15 the West.

history and a belief in civil Khordad Foundation, which on 12 February this year announced an increase in the reward money for Rushdie's murder - to £1.5m - is an immensely powerful organisation with the support of the unelected Spiritual Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamanei. The foundation's head, Ayatollah Shaikh Hassan Sanei, is a senior figure in the religious establishment and the personal representative of Khamanei. In an interview with the Jumhuri-ye Islami newspaper, Ayatollah Sanei announced that anyone non-Muslim or even a bodyguard of Rushdie's - could claim the reward for killing the "apostate".

> A day after the increase in the reward for Rushdie's killing, a Revolutionary Guard statement published in the same newspaper claimed that "Muslims of the world have always considered Salman Rushdie an apostate and shall not rest until Imam Khomeini's order has been implemented." The then President, Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, tried to diminish the impact of these statements by talking about the 15 Khordad as "a non-governmental organisation" whose decisions "have nothing to do with the government's policies". Mr Rafsanjani even evinced ignorance of the Khordad's rationale, "I don't know what their motive was," he said, "but the government's policy towards (the Rushdie affair) is the same as before, and one which we have repeatedly announced." A request by The Independent to interview Ayatollah Sanei, was politely declined by the 15 Khordad

organisation. The truth is that the Rushdie passions among the ultra-orthodox clergy who were defeated in last May's presidential elections. When President Khatami's supporters demand they wish to excuse The Sounic Verses and contradict the word of the Ayatollah Khomelinked to Rushdie, And, of men condemn Rushdie's book, the less liberal they appear in



Salman Rushdie: 'If the people of Iran were able to make their political will felt, you'd get a very different society'

Photograph: Reuters

'People are very tired of the rule of the Imam'

Salman Rushdie was sceptical yesterday about suggestions that the official Iranian position has softened, as Steve Crawshaw found.

"My own attitude is: wait and see," Rushdie told The Independent. "People seem very eager to believe that change is taking place - on very scant evidence. I've become quite sceptical of gentler announcements. affair is in danger of reigniting They're often followed by con-

tradictions." He was scathing, too, about

the passing-the-buck argument - presented yet again by Seyyed

Mohajerani, minister of Islam- tired of the rule of the Imam. ic guidance - which suggests that a fatwa cannot be overturned because Ayatollah Khomeini, who issued the fatwa, is no longer alive. "It's disingenuous. In every other aspect of the Islamic republic, they talk about the unity of religion and politics ... The Iranians can always do things when they want to. We can get bogged down in areas of theological discussion. If the Iranian state decides to get rid of this problem, it's able to do so."

He was cautiously optimistic about the election of the new Iranian leader, President Khatami. "What it says to me is that people are getting very tanic Verses offended the Iran-

This was the greatest protest vote they could make ...

"If the people of Iran were able to make their political will felt, you'd get a very different

But he seemed resigned to the fact that little has changed, so far. The return of the EU ambassadors to Tehran was itself an indication that the status quo remains in force. "At the time when the EU withdrew its ambassadors, it said they would only come back if the fatwa was withdrawn. But they have sent

Rushdie, still under threat of assassination because his Sa-

them back anyway."

ian government, spoke of his disappointment that Britain, be a better moment." which takes over the presidency of the European Union in

had hoped for. "Before Blair was prime minister, he was extremely supportive. He said: Any time I can do anything for you, don't hesitate to ask'."

11 days' time, has failed to of-

fer the moral support that he

Come the election, however, Labour's warmth for the to kill people, according to threatened author diminished. When Rushdie requested a meeting with Robin Cook, the ernment is not hostile to his po-Foreign Secretary, he was told there was "no need for such a

meeting at this moment". To which Rushdie observed: and there is no policy."

"I can't think when there would

Rushdie insists that a tough stance by the European Union - where Britain will be the effective leader, for the next six months - is the only way of forcing Iran to soften its current position.

The Labour government preaches the need for an ethical foreign policy, which presumably includes the need not what books they have written. Rushdie believes that the Govsition. Equally, however, there is no sign of a tough new stance. "I keep asking for a policy —

WRITING IN

tellectual freedom may now be Extracts from Seyyed Mohajerani's speech to the Iranian parliament on 20 August after which he was elected - by a very narrow margin - 10 be Minister of Islamic Guidance:

> Everybody who has accepted the Islamic Republic and our country's constitution and are living as Iranian citizens, must be subject to tolerance ... we should prepare the kind of environment in which people feel able to express their ideas in different ways in the Islamic Republic.

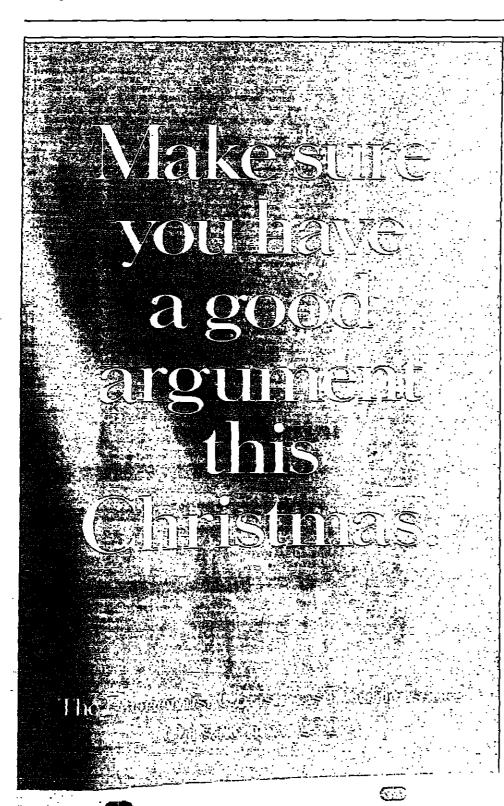
Here in this parliament, a writer [Dr Abdol-Karim Soroush, a leading opposition intellectual] was talked about, and his name was used without respect. We can be against people's ideas but that does not mean we should be allowed to insult them ... we should criticise him in a

respectable way ...
"I think that the books I've written show my sensitivity towards cultural invasion. How should I prove my sensitivity? I showed it by writing critically about the Satunic Verses on the very evening of February 14th [1989] that the Imam's fatwa [against Salman Rushdie] was announced over the radio ... The Imam was still alive when I started writing critically about

this book in Etelaut newspaper. "My colleagues in the office saw how, after writing this article, I collapsed in the office and couldn't move. The reason for this was that for about 40 days I couldn't sleep more than half-an-hour at night because I believed it was so important to give an answer to this book ... I wrote a book about Rushdie which was translated into Arabic and English ... yet ... you won't find any kind of insults in this book of mine.

"If I'm elected as the Islamic Guidance minister, I can tell you that I disagree almost totally with the way the ministry is being run ... Islam is not like a small, dark alley in which man ... hits his head against a wall and can't survive. Islam is like a highway, a road full of growth and happiness which a Muslim walks through all his life."





Fleet Street told to mind its own business

The Press Complaints Commission has drawn up a new Code of Conduct for journalists following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Steve Boggan examines the code and asks editors whether it will make any difference.

Lord Wakeham, the Commission chairman, called the code persistent pursuit and re-em-"the toughest in Europe" and, after the death of Diana, perhaps it had to be. There was si- provided from outside sources lence from many Fleet Street is obtained in accordance with editors last night as they di- provisions of the code. gested its contents and envisaged how, if at all, it would ments about key parts of it.

effect on 1 January, concentrates on 16 areas, from disand privacy. The most tightening up occurs over privacy, ha-

her private and family life, home, health and correspondence. A publication will be expected to justify intrusions into any individual's private life without consent."

Use of long lenses is ruled out and it adds: "Note - Private places are public or private property where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy." Such a definition is bound to cause problems. On harassment, the code specifically bans phasises the responsibility of editors to ensure material

The code emphasises the right of children at school to be change life for their journalists. free from unnecessary intrusion, There are sure to be argu- bans payments to minors and provides protection for the chil-The code, which comes into dren of the famous. It says the public interest includes detecting or exposing crime or a secrimination and financial, rious misdemeanour, protecting journalism to protecting sources public health and safety and preventing the public being misled.

Fleet Street hopes the code rassment, treatment of children will deflect criticism it received and intrusion into grief. Added after the death of Diana, when as a rider, as mitigation for ho- witnesses accused paparazzi on nourably breaking the tenets of motorbikes of causing her drithe code, is a passage on what ver to crash. It has emerged that constitutes the public interest. the driver, Henri Paul, was sev- am pleased that the industry has changes we have made ... On privacy it says: "Everyone eral times over the drink-drive is entitled to respect for his or limit and had taken prescription recommendations which I put can and does respond speedily it looked "reasonable on paper" place would be defined.



Diana in the spotlight. The media's alleged role in her death led to tough new measures

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

drugs. Yet the press felt the need to tighten up its own voluntary code rather than submit to legislation. Lord Wakeham said: "I

industry's Code Committee, ... will demonstrate their resaid: "I believe the important sponsibility in observing the

forward in September." Sir to public concern. I am confi- but was "ragged about the David English, chairman of the dent that editors and journalists edges. It is a perfectly respeciable architect's drawing rather than the building itself. he said. He was concerned, he new provisions." Andrew Marr, responded so positively to the show that press self-regulation editor of The Independent, said said, to find how a private

THE NEW CODE OF PRACTICE IN FULL

All members of the press have a duty on maintain the highest professional and ethical standards. This code sets the benchmarks for those standards. It both protects the rights of the individual and upholds the pub-lic's right to know. The code is the connections of the system of self-regulation to which the industry has made a binding commitment. Editors and publishers must ensure that the and publishers must ensure that the code is observed rigorously not only by their staff but also by anyone who contributes to their publications.

It is essential to the workings of

an agreed code that it be honor not only to the letter but in the full spirit. The code should not be interpreted so narrowly as to com-promise its commitment to respect the rights of the individual, nor so broadly that it prevents publication in the public interest.

in the public interest.

It is the responsibility of editors to co-operate with the PCC as swiftly as possible in the resolution of complaints. Any publication which is criticised by the PCC under one control of the public and the of the following clauses must print the adjudication which follows in full and with due prominence.

(i) Newspapers and periodicals must take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted material, in-

chiding pictures.
(ii) Whenever it is recognised that a nificant inaccuracy, misleading statement or distorted report has been published, it must be corrected promi-nently and with the prominence.

nently and with one prominence.

(iii) An apology must be published whenever appropriate.

(iv) Newspapers, whilst free to be partisan, must distinguish clearly between comment conjecture and fact. (v) A newspaper or periodical must report fairly and accurately the out-come of an action for defamation to which it has been a party.

2. Opportunity to reply A fair opportunity to reply to inac-curacies must be given to individu-als organisations when reasonably called for.

*3. Privacy
(i) Everyone is entitled to respect for
his or her private and family life,
home, health and correspondence.
A publication will be expected to jusify intrusions into any individual's private life without consent.

(ii) The use of long-lens photography to take pictures of people in private places without their consent is

Note: Private places are public or private property where there is a rea-sonable expectation of privacy.

(i) Journalists and photographers

must neither obtain nor seek to obtain information or pictures through intimidation, harassment or persistent oursuit.

(ii) They must not photograph indi-viduals in private places (as defined in clarise 3 nove) without their consent must not persist in telephoning, ques-tioning, pursuing or photographing in-dividuals after having been asked to desis; must not remain on their prop-erty after having been asked to leave and must not follow them.

(iii) Editors must ensure that those working for them comply with these requirements and must not publish material from other sources which

In cases involving grief or shock, en quiries must be carried out and ap-proaches made with sympathy and ust be handled sensitively, but this should not be interpreted as restricting the right to report judicial proceedings.

6. Children (i) Young people should be free to complete their time at school with-

out unnecessary intrusion. (ii) Journalists must not interview or photograph children under the age of 16 on subjects involving the wel-fare of the child or of any other child, in the absence of or without the consent of a parent or other adult who is responsible for the children.

(iii) Pupils must not be approached
or photographed while at school without the permission of the school authorities.

(iv) There must be no payment to numors for material involving the wel-fare of children nor payment to par-ents or guardians for material about their children or wards unless it is demonstrably in the child's interest. (v) Where material about the private life of a child is published, there must be justification for publication other than the fame, notoricty or position of his or her parents or guardian.

7. Children in sex cases The press must not, even where the law does not prohibit it, identi-fy children under 16 who are involved in cases concerning sexual offences, hether as victums or as witnesses. 2 In any press report of a case in-volving a sexual offence against a child: (i) The child must not be identified (ii) The adult may be identified. (iii) The word "incest" must not be used where a child victim might be

(iv) Care must be taken that nothing in the report implies the rela-tionship between the accused and the

•8. Listening devices
journalists must not obtain or publish material obtained by clandestine listening devices or by intercepting

private telephone conversations. Hospitals
 Journalists or photographers making enquiries at hospitals or similar institutions must identify themselves to a responsible executive and

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privacy are particularly relevant to enquiries about individuals in hos-pitals or similar institutions. 10. Innocent relatives and friends The press must avoid identifying rel-atives or friends of persons convict-

(ii) The restrictions on introding into

non-public areas.

ed or accused of crime without their consent *11. Misrepresentation
(i) Journalists must not generally obtain or seek to obtain information or

pictures through misrepre or subterfuge. (ii) Documents or pho

sent of the owner. sent of the counter.

(iii) Subterfuge can be justified only in the public interest and only when material cannot be obtained by any other means.

12. Victims of sexual assault

The press must not identify victims of sexual assault or publish material likely to contribute to such identification and, by law, they are free to do so.

13. Discrimination

(i) The press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to a person's race, colour, religion, sex or sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability. (ii) It must avoid publishing details of a person's race, colour, religion,

sexual orientation, physical or men-tal illness or disability unless these are directly relevant to the story.

•14. Financial journalism

(i) Even where the law does not prohibit it, journalists must not use for their own profit financial information they receive in advance of its general publication, nor should they pass such information to others.

(ii) They must not write about shares or securities in whose performance they know that they or their close fam-ilies have a significant financial inerest, without disclosing the interest to the editor or financial editor.
(iii) They must not buy or sell, either tin 1 ney man not only or sent enter-directly or through nominees or agents, shares or securities about which they have written recently or about which they intend to write in

Journalists have a moral obligation

•16. Payment for articles
(i) Payment or offers of payment for made directly or through agents to winesses or potential winesses in cur-rent criminal proceedings except where the material concerned ought to be published in the public interest and there is an overriding need to make or promise to make a payment for this to be done. Journa sure that no financial dealings have influence on the evidence that those thorising such a payment must be prepared to demonstrate that there is a egitimate public interest at stake inolving matters that the public has a right to know. The payment or, where accepted, the offer of payment to any witness who is actually cited to give evidence must be disclosed to the prosecution and the defence and the witness should be advised of this.) (ii) Payment or offers of payment for stories, pictures or in must not be made directly or through agents to convicted or confessed criminals or to their associates - who may include family, friends and colcagues – except where the ma al concerned ought to be published in the public interest and payment

*The public interest There may be exceptions to clauses marked "where they can be demonstrated to be in the pu 1. The public interest includes: (i) Detecting or exposing crime or a serious misdemeanour.

is necessary for this to be done.

(ii) Protecting public health and (iii) Preventing the public from be-ing misled by some statement or action of an individual organisat

2. In any case where the public interest is invoked, the PCC will re-quire a full explanation by the editor demonstrating how the public in-terest was served.

3. In cases involving children editors must demonstrate an exceptional public interest to override the normally



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المكناس الاجل

Hindley must stay in jail for rest of her life

Law Society.

Myra Hindley, the Moors murderer, is to spend the rest of her life in jail after High Court judges ruled yesterday that the Home Secretary's 'life meant life' decision was lawful. But, says Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, the judgment was overshadowed by an embarrassing leak.

An investigation began yesterday into the source for a tabloid newspaper story declaring that Hindley had lost her case - published hours before the verdict was delivered.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, who gave the main judgment, said it was "utterly unacceptable" that parties involved in a case should learn of the decision through a newspaper article.

He asked barristers for Hindley - who is appealing against the judgment - and the Home Secretary to find out bow the leak had occurred.

Assuming the Daily Mail's story yesterday was not simply a lucky guess, the leak of the judgment in such a high-profile case is an embarrassment. The investigation ordered by the Lord Chief Justice will cover the narrow group of people with access to the advance copy; the barristers, junior counsel and instructing solicitors on either side.

Any lawyer found to have

leaked such a judgment could face contempt of court proceedings and disciplinary action from the Bar Council or By convention, the clients - Hindley and the Home Sccretary Jack Straw - should be told just one hour before the judgement is delivered. Yesterday, the Home Of-

fice said it had "no idea" where the leak came from. Hindley's QC, Edward Fitzgerald, told the court that none of her legal team had spoken to or been approached by journalists, and said the implication in the tabloid story that her lawyers may have been the source were potentially defamatory. The Daily Mail said it got the story through "entirely legitimate journalistic methods

In the judgement, the three judges unanimously rejected Hindley's claims that first Michael Howard then Mr Straw last month had unlawfully given her a "whole life" tariff, after she had earlier been given a provisional 30-year tariff. Giving judgment, Lord Bingham ruled that Mr Howard's December 1994 decision that effectively ruled out hope of release for life tariff prisoners had been unlawful.

But Mr Straw's modified under which prisoners who show "exceptional progress" could have their case reviewed, was held to be lawful. However, Lord Bingham said he was "uneasily conscious" that a wider question was not tive.' being considered. "There is whether the task of deter-



policy, announced last month. People's justice: An anti-Hindley demonstrator outside the High Court yesterday

Photograph: Ben Curtis

murderers should serve ... should be undertaken by the judiciary or, as now, the execu-

The Lord Chief Justice said room for serious debate [as to] that Hindley, who was jailed in Hindley now wanted her case prisonment for life was 1966 for the murders of Les- reviewed on the grounds of

mining how long convicted ley Ann Downey, 10. and Ed- "exceptional progress", the the mother of Keith Bennett, ward Evans, 17, felt she was in prison simply because no Home Secretary dared face the backlash of releasing her.

Mr Pannick said that if

Home Secretary would consider the matter.

Lord Longford, who has campaigned for Hindley's releases on parole, said her im-"iniquitous". Winnie Johnson, right to appeal.

one of three other victims of Ian Brady and in whose murder Hindley admitted her involvement in 1987, said she was "pleased" by the decision but

angered by Hindley's constant

Jailed former M16 agent may try to publish secrets

A former MI6 officer was jailed for a year yesterday for unlawfully disclosing information about his work. But his imprisonment may not stop the 'secrets' being published, says Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent.

Richard Tomlinson, a 34-yearold Cambridge graduate, yesterday became the first MI6 agent to be jailed under official secrets legislation since the Soviet spy George Blake, 36 years

Tomlinson, who joined MIô in 1991 and was dismissed in 1995, admitted passing a synopsis of a proposed book about his experiences in the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) to an Australian publisher. He kept details of his proposed book in secret files on several computers.

Lawyers for MI6 argued that the information contained damaging information about operations and agents obtained by Tomlinson while working for the agency in Moscow, Bosnia and London.

Passing sentence at the Old Bailey the Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney, said: "You showed a determination to publish information which you knew is actually and potential harmful to the public in-Court to pass a sentence which the course that you chose to pursue.

"We are sadly conscious that it may not deter you," he added. This last reference is due to the fact that once Tomlinson has completed his sentence - he will probably serve another four months in jail - there is nothing stopping him going to a foreign country, such as Australia, and publishing his experiences in a repeat of the Spycatcher affair.

He is the first person to be prosecuted under the 1989 Official Secrets Act. The court heard that Tomlinson had contacted Transworld Publishers in Australia after becoming bitterly disillusioned following his dismissal from SIS. His attempt to claim unfair dismissal through an industrial tribunal was blocked by Malcolm Rifkind. then Foreign Secretary.

Nigel Sweeney, prosecuting, said that Tomlinson wrote to SIS saying that his treatment by the agency "made the for-merly unthinkable step of contacting a hostile power as something I think of daily."

He also threatened to publish the book on the Internet, but later said it was a bluff.

Last February he signed an agreement with MI6 not to publish anything in return for a cash payment and help in finding work. SIS also arranged for some sessions with a psychiatrist. But in April he flew again to Australia to find a publisher for his book and told a commissioning editor that he wanted to reveal the "unscrupulous

and immoral" actions of MI6. He was arrested on 31 October by Metropolitan Police Special Branch at his home in Milton Keynes where they found copies of the book and terest. It remains the duty of the chapters on a personal computer and a larger machine at may deter others from pursuing his home. A second computer with a copy of the book was stolen, although Mi6 is suspected of being responsible.

John Wadham, Tomlinson's

solicitor, said after the case that his "only crime was to produce the synopsis of a book which was never published".

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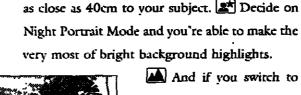
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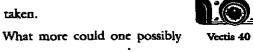
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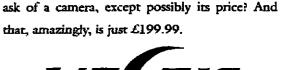
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Revamped Louvre dusts off its fusty old image

Sixteen years ago **President François** Mitterrand decreed that the dusty, musty old Palais du Louvre should be opened up to the light and air. Today, President Chirac opens the last stage of a £600m

expansion and re-design which makes the Louvre one of the largest, and most modern, art museums in the world.

It has taken 206 years but the ambition of the revolutionaries who evicted the French royal family from the Louvre in 1791 has finally been achieved. From today, the entire. immense, lobster-shaped complex beside the Seine will be opened to the public - an artistic city within a city in the heart of Paris.

More than 10,000 square metres of new exhibition space scum's vast collection of Greek, tors has double to more than Roman and Egyptian art and

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

Louvre the world's second largest museum of Egyptology. Apart from a few finishing touches, the internal rebuilding and re-fitting of the Louvre ordered by President Mitterrand in 1981 will be complete.

A new, underground entrance hall, topped by a controversial glass pyramid, was opened in 1989. The artistic colonisation of the northern, Richelieu, wing - occupied by the Ministry of Finance for 170 vears - was finished in 1993.

The final stage, also including a restored "long gallery" for Italian and some French 16thand 17th-century paintings, will be opened by President Jacques Chirac today.

Although hugely expensive, the restoration of the Louvre is will be reopened, mostly in the already a thumping, public sucolder, eastern part of the cess. Since work began in the Palace, the Sully Wing. The mu- mid 1980s, the number of visi-5,000,000 a year. The "old" artefacts will be displayed ful- Louvre was a labyrinth of dusty ly for the first time, making the rooms with cramped and jum-



Sneak preview: Visitors attend an early viewing of the wooden sarcophagus of Marcus Antinous which will be on show in the refurbished Louvre galleries

bled displays, defended by legendarily grumpy attendants.

The average visit time was scarcely more than an hour (typically spent searching for the Mona Lisa) compared to three hours in comparable

useums around the world. The re-modelled Louvre is larger, more spacious but easier to navigate and has a revolutionary system of indi-

mirrors and ultra-violet filters to reveal, but protect, the works of art. It also has an underground car-park, lecturetheatre, shopping-centre and several restaurants.

Among the works on display for the first time, will be a restored statue of the Empress Sabina, wife of the Emperor Hadrian (2nd century the rebuilt statue will go on

rect. natural lighting, using AD), parts of which were lost public display from tomor- Pharaoh Amenophis IV. Elseat the bottom of the Mediterranean until two years ago. The ship bringing the statue to France, from an archeological dig near Carthage, caught fire and sank off Toulon in 1874. Parts of the statue were recovered but not the head.

A diving team recovered the missing items in 1995 and row, most probably for the first time in nearly 2,000 years. Another of the displays contains a painted wooden sarcophagus of Marcus Antinous, a friend of Hadrian who drowned in the Nile.

The centrepiece of the 30 new rooms devoted to ancient Egyptian artefacts will be an immense stone head of the

where, an almost entire interior of a 4th-century Coptic church - presented to France by the Egyptian government - has been reassembled in a former amphitheatre. It is thought to be the only church-within-a-museum in the world.

The "Great gallery" for 16th and 17th-century paintings, restored to its full 300-me-

tre glory (the length of three football pitches) will include works from the museum "reserve" not displayed before. They include The Annociation by Giorgio Vasari and Camille delivering the school-master to his pupils", by Nicolas Poussin.

The new galleries will be open from today and free to the public on Sunday and Monday from 6pm to 10pm.

Germany learns to love its bothersome poet

On Heinrich Heine's 200th birthday, Germany is at last learning to love her troublesome poet. Yet Imre Karacs finds that celebrating the life of the apostle of self-hating Germans still stirs controversy.

"Oh Germany! Land of oaks and stunted minds!" - Is it any wonder that the nation thus greeted by one of its greatest poets still does not see why it should feel flattered?

For two centuries Germans have been trying to come to terms with Heinrich Heine, the genius who loved his country so much he could not bear to live there. What is one to make of the Jew who embraced Luther. only to renounce the professional career lubricated by his conversion? Or the revolutionary who hated all dogma and was sickened by the smell of blood?

Heine drank from the cups of a wide range of philosophers, but discarded them all in his eternal quest for Utopia. He was a patriot who mocked nationalists, a romantic who denounced romanticism, a Francophile who held Frenchmen inferior to Germans - the "strongest and most intelligent nation". It was he who prophesied the destructive power of a fanatic people mesmerised by legends of the super-human.

Heine was, in the words of Germany's President, Roman Herzog, a "bothersome thinker". So bothersome, that

for the entire history of united Germany, the country's relationship to the poet - dead or alive - has been a mirror image of its own state of health. He and his works suffered under tyranny; tyrants withered under the invective of his prose.

Mr Herzog spoke earlier this month at the climax of an orgy of Heine events marking the 200th anniversary of the poet's birth. The President was addressing a gathering of the great and the good in Heine's home town. Düsseldort, at the university named after the poet. This civic pride - if such ex-

ists - is a very recent phenomenon. The last time Germany tried to honour "Harry" 25 years ago, the professors of Düsseldorf's musty university took a vote on changing its name, and chose the reac-

That was in 1972, four years after the great student revolts, and scholars baulked at the prospect of having a revolutionary's name on their pay

At last Dússeldorf has extended its arms to the spectre of its prodigal son. The German fashion capital's university now hears the name of the poet. There is a Heine Institute, a plaque depicting the stormy love affair between Heine and Germany was unveiled last week, and the city boasts a flourishing industry in Heine mem-

Even practitioners of the physical sciences are unable to stay aloof from all the fuss. The hero of the hour is Dr Wolfgang Huckenbeck of the local Institute of Forensic Medicine who, 1939 and 1945, and were used

upon analysing a lock of Heine's to adorn the commemorative ishair discovered elevated levels of lead.

So Heine's hair had 133 times the normal amount of lead, but no mercury, with which he was supposed to have been treated for syphilis. The implication is that Heine might have been murdered, possibly by his jealous wife, Mathilde, though Dr Huckenback admits that a list of possible suspects would run into millions: the offended German nation.

But away from trivia, and on to real controversy. For, in true reflection of Heine's enduring scandal value, a stamp issued in his honour did cause a furore. There was nothing wrong with the stamps, but at the edge of the blocks of them the designers had drawn little Germanic runes; the ancient symbols of birth and death. These, it turned out, had been greatly in fashion in the period between

sue marking the assassination in 1942 of SS General Reinhard Heydrich. The Post Office withdrew the Heine stamps in a hur-

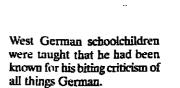
> The incident was judged to have been in very had taste, particularly in view of the tribulations suffered by Heine's golden words at the hands of the Nazis. In 1933, Heine books ended up on the same pyre as Marx for similar reasons; both had been bolshie Jews. Heine's conversion at the

> age of 27 cut no ice with Hitler. But even the Nazis could not resist the poet's charms. Some of his work survived in school textbooks of the era. "Loreley". a haunting poem encapsulating the mythical magnetism of the Rhine, gave pleasure to millions of Hitler Jugend, who probably never guessed the true identity of "author unknown".

> After the war, East Germany adopted Heine as the champion of the toiling masses, while

Heine loved his country so much he could not bear to live there and made his name by pouring scorn on his countrymen. Despite recent efforts to rehabilitate his memory. scandal continues to follow his name

Love and hate: Heinrich



To which Heine might have replied, as he had written a century before: "Paris is the new Jerusalem, and the Rhine is the river Jordan which divides the land of freedom from the country of the Philistines."

in his speech, President Herzog lauded Heine's "corrosive criticism" and invited contemporary intellectuals to learn . from his example. Without such men, he said, "society will wither away". And a little wit and humour of the Heine variety would not go amiss, either, the President remarked in rather pointed fashion.

It seems that 200 years on, Germany could just about cope with Heine, though whether Heine would be able to suffer his armchair-bound compatriots today can never be



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Selected stor

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Korea elects dissident as president

After receiving the biggest-ever emergency bail-out by the IMF, South Koreans scored another first this morning – the election of an opposition president. Richard Lloyd Parry in Seoul wonders whether Kim Dae Jung can be trusted with the world's most out-of-control economy.

A new and uncertain political era will begin in Seoul this morning when, as now seems guaranteed, Kim Dae Jung becomes the first opposition politician to be elected president of South Korea.

counted, Mr Kim held a small but consistent lead at the end of a election in which uninspiring campaigning was over- victim of the wave of currency shadowed by Korea's deepening economic crisis. By 2am, Mr East Asia since the summer. In Kim had won almost 40 per cent, compared to 38 per cent by his close rival, the ruling par- the Korean won has lost half its ty candidate, Lee Hoi Chang. who trailed by 1 or 2 per cent throughout the count. The third \$57bn bail out by the Internaof the leading candidates. Rhee tional Monetary Fund. In Je, a former member of the ruling party who split its support had 19 per cent of the vote. forms which will almost

victory in my bones," Mr Kim ruptcies and rising unemploytold members of his party, the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), early this unions, business associations Euro MPs, the butt of much morning. "The world is watching us and if we can't properly transfer power, it will affect the if I am elected, hardships confront us."

e poet

Opinion polls had for weeks appears to have been cancelled in those of Mr Lee.

out by popular anger over the sudden collapse of the econo-

Mr Kim is a political institution in South Korea, a former dissident and political prisoner, who escaped execution and assassination under South Korea's military dictators.

He had stood and lost in three previous presidential elections, and more than once announced his permanent retirement from politics.

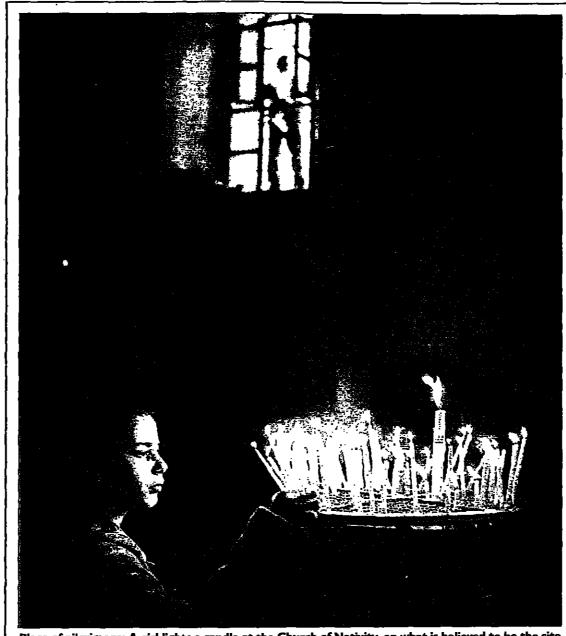
In a country previously dominated by conservatives, Mr Kim is regarded as something of a radical. But, apart from the symbolic value of an opposition victory - in a country in which democracy is only 10 years old - serious doubts remain about his ability to rescue the coun-With two-thirds of the votes try from the grave economic crisis into which it has sunk.

> Last month, South Korea became the latest and biggest devaluations which have swept the space of a few weeks, the stock market has plunged and value, although the decline slowed this week thanks to a

The rescue package is conditional on a set of harsh re-"Right now I can't feel this certainly result in further bankment over the next year, and it has been denounced by trade and nationalist groups.

> Last week, Mr Kim provoked was elected.

He later signed a statement



Place of pilgrimage: A girl lights a candle at the Church of Nativity, on what is believed to be the site of Jesus's birthplace, as Bethlehem prepares for an influx of visitors

Brakes put on MEPs' gravy train

public criticism for their lavish allowances and salaries, are a plunge in the markets when facing pre-Christmas cutbacks way the world looks at us. Even he said that he would renego- aimed at cleaning up the Strastiate the terms of the deal if he bourg assembly's gravy-train

MEPs who fail to show up predicted a close vote, but in with his fellow candidates for at least half of all votes will previous elections, Korean vot- giving the IMF his full support, lose half of their £175-a-day ers have swung at the last but the suspicion lingers that meals and accommodation alminute towards the ruling part the deal is less safe in his lowance, under a decision takty. This conservative tendency hands than it would have been en by party managers and the

move comes amid fresh attacks after television documentaries in Germany and The Netherlands alleged to show MEPs to take part in debates or votes.

£7,000-each, by demanding a members for a system which al-

Parliament's president. The clampdown on media and tele- lows Italians to earn almost four vision access to their buildings. An internal committee which

has been studying possibilities for long-term reform has recsigning on a register to collect ommended harmonising in restoring Strasbourg's credtheir daily cash but then failing salaries to end the system whereby deputies are paid the Some MEPs reacted to the same as their national coununflattering exposure and to terparts. Lavish allowances and criticism of the cost of installing expenses are designed in part to showers in their new offices- "compensate" the lowest-paid

times what their Irish or Greek colleagues take home.

But party leaders, uncomfortable with the slow progress ibility, recognise they must demonstrate they are trimming the scope for pocketing huge profits on travel and meals reimbursements.

EU freezes £5m Tibet aid after aid worker is excluded

a £5m development project in Tibet after the authorities in effect expelled a British aid worker from Lhasa by refusing to renew her work permit.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-presmission, will postpone signing the final agreement for the 7.6m Ecu Panam project while officials try to establish why a until it was reported in The Save the Children Fund (SCF) education expert has been forced to leave Tibet.

"We've stopped the administrative procedures in their tracks until we have clarified what happened," said a member of Sir Leon's office yesterday. The agreement had been due for signing before Christ-

The 30-year-old British aid worker, who SCF requested been allowed back for only one south west of Lhasa. week, with no explanation from

The European Union has frozen the authorities over why they will not renew her work permit. "If SCF can't operate in Tibet, if non-governmental organisations cannot operate in Tibet, then the whole raison d'etre of the Panam project is in question. ident of the European Com- There is no doubt about that," said the official.

Sir Leon and his office were unaware of SCF's visa problem Independent this week, even though the British charity last month informed the EU of the block. Efforts are now being made by the EU to find out

what has happened. The British charity runs education and environmental health programmes in Tibet, where it has worked since 1991. The de facto expulsion of its only expatriate aid worker in Tibet threatens the EU project benot be named, had been based cause SCF was the most obviin Tibet for three years, im- ous NGO to be involved in proving village education in Panam, an ambitious integratpoor rural areas. Since she left ed irrigation, health and edufor a holiday in July, she has cation plan for a region 200km

- Teresa Poole

Rescuers hunt missing plane

Greek rescue teams struggling to overcome rugged terrain covcred with snow and low cloud had failed by nightfall yesterday to find a missing Ukrainian airliner with 70 people aboard. Search teams stretched across a mountainous region to the south-west of Salonika scaled back operations as darkness fell

The Russian-built Yakovlev-42 plane disappeared from radar screens late on Wednesday as it prepared to land at Salonika after a flight from Kiev via Odessa.

Jamaican voters box clever

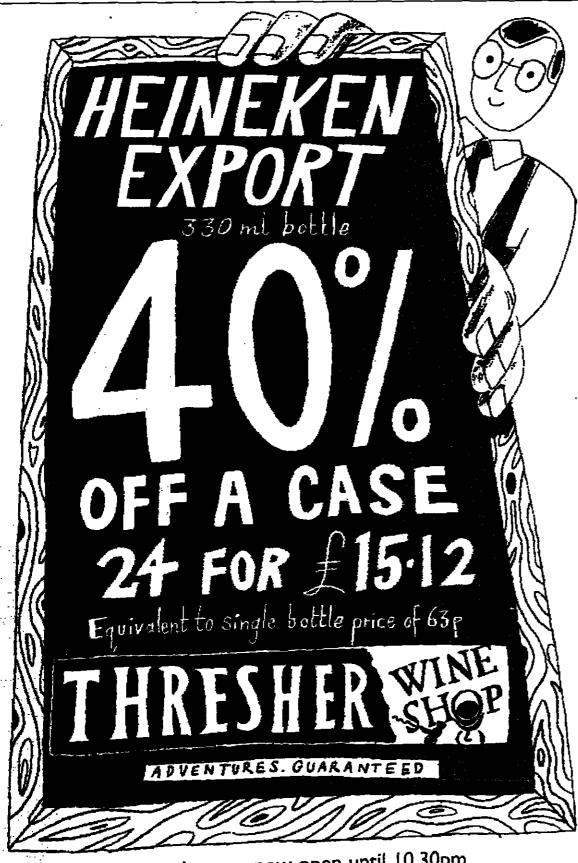
With the world heavyweight Holyfield, on hand to help ensure a clean fight, Jamaicans went to the polls yesterday in general elections seen as the most significant in the nation's 50 years of suffrage.

Holyfield, representing the Carter Centre team of internawarmer welcome than any of the candidates and was mobbed - Katherine Butler toured polling stations in the no reports of major incidents. Brussels capital. Former US President

Jimmy Carter and General Colboxing champion, Evander in Powell, whose parents were Jamaican, were also on hand to witness the balloting. Peace, more than politics.

was the key word as Jamaicans prayed in church services around the nation, for a voting day free of the violence of past years, notably 1980 when 800 tional observers, received a people died. All soldiers' leave was cancelled and hospitals went on an emergency footing. by voters in poor suburbs as he but by late yesterday there were

— Phil Davison, Kingston



Selected stores now open until 10.30pm. Offer runs from 18.12.97 to 21.12.97 inclusive. Prices correct at time of going to press, Normal price of 24 bottles £25.20. Available to over 18's only. Offer subject to availability. No further discounts apply including shareholders discount



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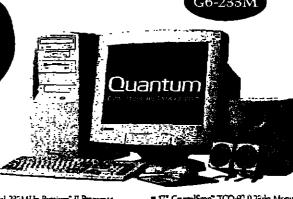
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Gunman keeps children hostage

A gunman was still holding two children hostage at a Texas nursery last night after a family dispute escalated into a siege drama. The man, identified as 33-year-old James Lipscomb, had taken 63 children and five adults hostage on Wednesday after storming into the Rigsbee Child Development Centre in the Dallas suburb of Plano.

He released 60 children the same evening after negotiations with police and the last of the adults early yesterday. But Mr Lipscomb broke off communication with the police around midday yesterday after old girl said to be his godchild. He was apparently unhappy after seeing live pictures of her erage of the siege. release on television. The po-



Children running from the Plano, Texas, day-care centre during the standoff between police and an armed man

maining children, a three-year- back had jeopardised the Lipscomb's son, Monroe, and said they hoped the siege progress already made and his stepson, Xavier. There was would end peacefully. "Everyasked reporters to halt live cov- no information about what thing seems to be going well." age of the siege. might have led Mr Lipscomb a police spokesman, Carl The two remaining chil- to storm the nursery. Despite Duke, said. "The information

releasing one of the three re- lice said they feared the set- dren were believed to be Mr the breakdown of talks, police we have is that there are children and adults still inside. We don't know specific numbers but he is releasing people and

the rest of his hostages free and surrender. "If everything conwe are making progress." Mr be resolved without any further

US rules out an End Bosnia troop in ext

President Clinton алпоипсеd yesterday that US troops would remain in Bosnia after the June 1998 deadline and set no new deadline for their withdrawal. His decision came as Nato snatched another two war criminals. Mary Dejevsky and Andrew Gumbel

Mr Clinton's announcement, at a White House press conference, amounts to an open-ended US commitment to keep troops in Bosnia for as long as it takes for peace to become in his words - "self-sustaining". While insisting that the presence would not be permanent. Mr Clinton would not guarantee that the troops would be home even by the time he leaves office in January 2001.

In a rare admission for a politician, the US President said he had been "mistaken" in thinking that the Nato-led contingent would no longer be necessary after next June and said he did not want to repeat the error. However, the necessary Senate approval is likely to be granted only grudgingly and

after acrimonious debate. Mr Clinton - who will visit to US servicemen in Bosnia this weekend - said that in future gave himself up without resisthere should be "achievable, concrete benchmarks, not a deadline" for the withdrawl of against him might be.

troops. These included a trained civilian police force, functioning independent media and the return of more refugees. The setting of "benchmarks" represents a big-

tactical change. The night before Mr Cliaton spoke, Nato troops in Bosnia staged a dramatic dawn raid to capture two more men - this time Croats - wanted for war crimes at the international tribunal in The Hague.

A Dutch commando unit crept into the village of Santici to the house belonging to Vlatko Kupreskic and then, as the signal was given, burst in. The man they were tracking has been charged with involvement in one of the most callous massacres of the war - the murder of more than 100 Muslim civilians in the village of Ahmici. near Vitez in central Bosnia, in April 1993. He had been living quite openly in the area ever since. Mr Kupreskic was shot at least three times in the chest; arm and leg.

He was then whisked off to Sarajevo for emergency surgery, and once it was clear his life was not in danger he was flown to The Hague.

The second arrest was an altogether quieter affair. Auto Furudzija did not know he was wanted by the international tribunal - his was a so-called "sealed" indictment - and he tance. It was not clear last night what the nature of the charges

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Solutions for a small planet

Somali leader stays on

Mohamed Ibrahim Egal will remain president of the breakaway Somali republic after parliament rejected his resignation. Egal offered to resign, citing lack of cooperation from his government ministers who have in the past accused him of being high-handed. But Somalis dismissed his move as a ploy to secure his position with even greater powers.

Sithole murder verdict

Veteran Zimbabwean opposition leader Ndabaningi Sithole was sentenced to two years in jail for plotting to kill President Robert Mugabe in 1995. But Sithole, 77, was then freed on bail pending an appeal to the supreme court after his lawyers argued that he was too ill to go to prison. The high court also gave Sithole a suspended five-year term in prison on two other counts of possessing arms of war and of promoting terrorism to overthrow the government.

THE INDEPENDENT

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15/SPIES

troop of an Englishman's life in exile

As spies queue up to write memoirs, the life of a Cold War masterspy remains intriguing. Now the widow of Kim Philby, Independent reader and double agent, has written a memoir of life with the 'Third Man'. Helen Womack interviewed Rufina Ivanovna Pukhova about her version of events.

The Cold War may be over, but the legacy for Rufina Ivanovna Pukhova, widow of the British traitor Kim Philby, is a cottage industry of KGB pensioners churning out dubious stories about her late husband as they seek to make money by writing memoirs. So tired has she become of this that she has written her own account of life with him, entitled "Island on the Sixth Floor" - a reference to the flat she shared with the former MI5 spymaster after he defected to Moscow in 1963.

"So many lies have been told about Kim," Rufina Ivanovna said at a press conference yesterday. "But nobody knows better than I do how he lived here, what he felt. After all, I was married to him."

"Island on the Sixth Floor" is the highlight of a new book on Philby called I Did It My Way (the spy was a fan of Frank Sinatra) published in a limited Russian edition. The volume also includes "My Hidden War" by Philby himself, which Russian readers are seeing uncensored mess), he would not have wastfor the first time. And there are who attended Philby's seminars on English life for KGB him and the journalist Vadim trainees, and by Mikhail Lyu- Kassis in an interview in Janubimov, a Soviet spy who, after ary 1988. Asked if he had often in the mid-Sixties, befriended Philby is reported to have Philby in his Moscow exile.

r stays on

er verdict

SEMILES.COM

"He was a great tragic figure of this century," Colonel Lyubimov said. "He was an idealist. An anti-fascist in the 1930s. to put it mildly," Rufina Ivanov- would have been appalled by you could say he was like na told me, at her home. Phil- the poverty now, he had a great George Orwell."

"He did not feel he had betrayed Britain," Rufina Ivanovna added. "He was fighting fascism and we were all on the same side in those days, weren't we?"

Rufina Ivanovna has been

about her husband's alleged said he had fallen in his bath. I depressions after he saw the re- went to see him. He was very ality of life in the USSR, which weak but brightened when he he had served through ideological conviction, rather than for money. One retired KGB agent has gone so far as to suggest that did that it might worry him, so Philby was disillusioned enough I left. I got home at 11 in the to take his own life.

Leonid Kolosov, who spent very nervous. I took sleeping his career under journalistic pills. At two in the morning, I cover in Rome, admits he only met Philby twice but says he has I rang the hospital and they told no reason to doubt what he was told by a KGB colleague, now dead, and the Kremlin doctor, that the defector shot himself in May 1988. The official version

was that he died of heart failure. Lieutenant-Colonel Kolosov says Philby was very depressed when he met him at a KGB reception in Moscow a few months before his death, and

Kim Philby: 'So many lies

have been told about him'

quotes him as saying that had

he known Russia would turn out

word, literally meaning a whore-

ed his life in its service. The re-

KGB's closed hospital in Mos-

is less than \$100 (£62) a month). The KGB allotted the Philbys, who feared being pursued by journalists, the perfect flat; hidden in the lanes behind the central Tverskaya Street. Only invited guests are told which archways and doorways will bring them to the apartment.

he died. That was terrible."

Inside, Philby's study is as he left it, with his history books and detective novels for sleepless nights. In the living room, his old Riga radio with beautiful ivory buttons is still tuned to the BBC.

"There were two main myths about Kim," said his widow. "One had it that after he came to Moscow he lived in luxury, like cheese floating in butter as we say in Russian. The other is that he descended into degradation and poverty. As you see, the reality is less sensational.

to be such a bardak (a vulgar Philby's widow admits that house, used to described a when she first met him he drank heavily. But in 1972, he pulled himself out of his alcoessays by Mikhail Bogdanov, tired agent also reads meaning holic depression. The KGB, into a comment Philby made to which had kept him underemployed, began giving him work as an consultant.

It was true, though, that disappoint him. "He was parreplied: "A true secret agent ticularly irritated by Brezhnev only shoots once in his life - ... Gorbachev raised his hopes when he has no other way out." at first, but he got tired of his The suicide story is rubbish, demagoguery. Of course, he by, she said, had gone into the sense of social justice."

He was nostalgic for Engcow for treatment to his heart. land, which he knew was lost to "On the morning of the 10th him, although his children of May, I began to worry. I rang would visit from the West. "But his room but nobody answered. he was also realistic," she said. I rang and rang. Eventually a "You know, he often used to say:



Old times: Rufina Ivanovna, widow of the master-spy Kim Philby, with her memoirs at the Moscow press conference Photograph: Sergei Karpukhim/Re





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particularly upset by stories nurse picked up the phone and The West has its defects too." Christn

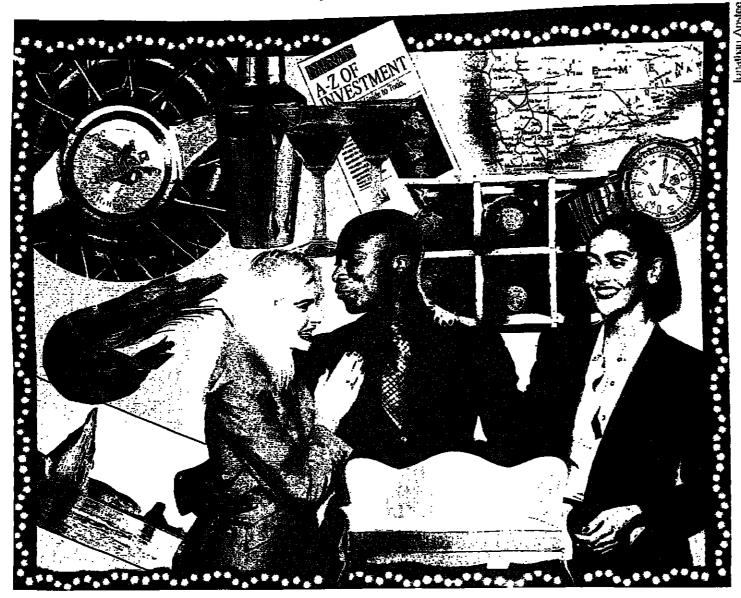
Successful City types have plenty to smile about this Christmas many will trouser annual bonuses in excess of their annual salary. **Purveyors of luxury** goods and services may be rubbing their hands in glee, but, Meg Carter warns, don't expect the new Yuppies to be flash with their cash.

Can it really be just 10 years since the stripe-shirted young urban professional turned conspicuous consumption into a way of life? Much has changed since Recession cured the Eighties myopia which led to a widespread belief that the good times would never end. Today. it seems, people simply don't react in the same way to having a rosy income.

Take Richard Emanuel, 30, managing director of DX Communications - a mobile phones business which he launched in 1991 and which now boasts a turnover of £50 million. "Today there's more of a focus on quality of life. There was a feeling then that the Eighties boom would last for ever. In the Nineties, however, you can't afford to just live for today. Rather than buy a Ferrari, people are spending to improve the overall quality of their life."

Alex Johnson, 33, director of PR firm Freud's, made a significant financial killing when the company was sold to advertising agency AMVBBDO two years ago. "People don't spend nearly as much on looking good as they did in the Eighties," he declares. "They're spending more on promoting the values close to them - if they have kids, they're spending more on their kids, if not they're spending more on their friends. It's less about attracting attention, more about gratifying people's pascent spirituality."

Really? Tell that to the young professionals eager to spend their thousands on designer suits. flash cars and deluxe inner-city pads. Business requirements start at £1,700. has never been brisker at upmarket London estate agents Holden Matthews in trendy Islington. "There's steady demand for good houses in prime looking for something central especially converted commercial properties. They're willing to nut down £250,000 for a first time buy, while thirtysomethings with families are looking to trade up from a £350,000 house to £750,000 in one



move," managing director Paul Williams says,

Fashionable mens' outfitter Ozwald Boateng reports a rapid rise in the number of City types. barristers, media executives and celebrities popping in for an extra suit for Christmas. "We're traditional with a twist. A lot of men don't want to wear the classic Savile Row suit, unless they were born to that ilk," bespoke consultant Daniel Seisay explains. Popular purchases of the moment include classic fabrics. gold pinstripe and, for the more adventurous, purple mohair and velvet, he says. Ready-towear suits start at £895. Bespoke suits tailored to an individual's

Meanwhile, upmarket travel firm Abercrombie & Kent is profiting from growing interest in the upscale adventure end of locations. Young blades are of people from the City coming to us for an exclusive destination to get away from it all. There's steady demand for small, exclusive Caribbean destinations and, of course, Necker Island," says spokeswoman Allyson Eggison. But, she adds: "There's growing demand for

	IN	OUT
	inner-city pad, preferably converted commercial space	Commuting from a country retreat
	Avant-garde Italian, French and American designed furnishings, eg Scandinavia designs by Gubi stocked by West End store Purves and Purves	Off-the-shelf items readily available in the Conran Shop and Heal's
1	Classic cars – like a Bentley, E type Jag or VW Carmen Ghia	Ferrari and Porsche
	For the more flashy: bespoke, taylor-made clothes from trendy young designers. For the more discreet: jeans	Designer lines from Armani and Gucci - they're now seen as too mainstream
1	Platinum Tag Hauer	Gold Rolex
	Moroccan and Pacific Rim cuisine	The Four-Hour Lunch
	Discreet cocktails – like Vodkatini	Magnums of Bolly
	Africa, Antarctica, Oman, Yemen Pensions, PEPs, investing in feature	Thailand and the rest of the Far East Spend, spend, spend
۰	films, fine wines and art	

more challenging destinations or activities." These people need to get as far away from "reality" as is possible, and they're more than willing to pay the price. So, their tailor-made trips now include 10 nights in Oman for around £2,000, 12 nights in the Antarctic, taking in the Falklands on the way from £5,000 and quad biking in the Kalahari at £196 a night.

But wait. It may not sound like it, but Messrs Emanuel and Johnson have a point, "Ostentation has become more subtle in the Nineties," says Nick Kendall, group planning director at advertising agency Bartle clients is Audi, whose recent TV commercial lampooned yuppie values. The brash oik featured in the ad test drives and dismisses an Audi. "Not my style." he sneers. (Which for Audi and its discerning clientele was just as well.) Younger high fliers are increasingly buying classic cars rather than a Porsche or Ferrari. Kendall the smart buy is a Platinum Tag.

"People are more careful." he believes. "They are more worried about showing it off and the trouble that can cause with growing tension between the. wealthy and the larger, underclass. And they are more likely to put money into investment purchases - whether it's PEPs. pension funds or simply something that won't completely lose value in five years time.

Hoarding and hiding underpins the Nineties consumer's shopping mentality. Kendall adds. "People are expecting more from designer goods and luxury brands - they want quality rather than show and greater Bogle Hegarty. One of BBH's craftsmanship. They also want something personal. It's not about spending to achieve material wealth, it's about spending to achieve emotional wealth. People are increasingly interested in collecting experiences."

This can range from the seemingly indulgent to the coolly practical. "Yes I earn a lot but I work hard for it," says one thirtysomething trader who has claims. Forget the Gold Rolex, spent the past seven years working for a US bank. "I spend on of money elsewhere."

myself, on my family and on my friends but most of the money I make I invest. In 10 years time I want to be working for me. That's why I'm planning to invest in feature films. It will give me a foot in the door and it might eventually lead to a career change. By that point, of course. I'll be able to absorb the inevitable salary drop."

Richard Emanuel is an earnest advocate of developing interests away from business which is why he's learning to fly. Thirty-three-year-old Brian Dodsworth, meanwhile, has put money he made from selling shares in his previous employer, a drug delivery system manufacturer, into funding himself to study an MBA at one of this country's leading business schools. "I didn't make enough money to retire on," he candidly admits.

Conscious of how insecure the job market has become, he decided against buying a sports car. "I decided instead to make sure I could move onwards and upwards and earn a shed-load

City hotshots itching to get their paws on this year's financial bonuses should take note. For as well as delivering the higgest pay-outs on record (worth £1bn according to one estimate). 1997 has also been a year of fundamental change. The rollercoaster that now is the Far Eastern stock markets has left many leading banks with their fingers burned.

Meanwhile, a flurry of financial services mergers are now expected in the wake the recent union between Swiss banking giant UBS and Swiss Bank Corporation. Barclays and NatWest are likely to follow. The net effect is likely to be that star traders, who can today command basic salaries exceeding £100,000 with bonuses of nearer £1 million, find themselves playing a high-risk game of musical chairs. Thousands of job losses are predicted in the City of London alone as a result of this shake-down. And those who remain may soon see investment houses adapting their remuneration packages, A growing body of research suggests that employees are no longer motivated by salaries alone, Says Martin Short of City headhunters Jonathan Wren: "Increasingly, financial package is only part of the equation. Of growing importance is how stable a future employer is and whether they guarantee relevant training and clear career progression."

The end result - high income and attractive amounts of disposable cash - may not sound so different from the Eighties. but the difference is how it is achieved and, of course, spent. According to Richard Emanuel: "It's hard to say at 30 when and if I will want to take early retirement. But the important thing is to make sure that in 10 years time I will have that



JOHN LYTTLE

What the well-heeled homosexual really, really wants in his stocking

All five Spice Girls dolls: Grumpy, Bleached, Butch, Stuck-Up and Common
All four Teletubbies dolls: Judy Finnegan, Dale Win-

ton, Christopher Biggins, Vanessa Feltz Just one evening dishing the dirt with Anne Atkins's daughter

Advance copy of "Whigfield II" A year's supply of eyelash dye

An end to the worldwide plague that is ... bobbling. And - what else? There was something ... Oh, yes. I remember. A cure for Aids (note: order of importance has been reversed) Anything and everything in matt black

A high metabolism

An Irony Lady, ie a lady who comes in once a week to do the irony, saving the busy homosexual the bother of having to do it himself That little special something delivered to your door

by Securicor The entire set of Teenage Mutant Ninja Cross-Dressers Mud: for bath, body, face and flinging

Action Man with gripping hands GI Joc: so Action Man has something to do with his gripping hands

Novelty condoms - the sort that play "Jingle Bells" or taste of mince pie or have a tip that lights up like Rudolph's nose. Perfect for your heterosexual siblings who, trust me, need all the novelty they can get Barrel of Immac DIY sex-change kit. Basically a pair of scissors, a

frying-pan and a personalised horoscope from the pen of Russell Grant (one-year guarantee on working parts) Big black book for the many, many, many names and

telephone numbers you'd otherwise be too drunktoo high/too damn fabulous to remember Any Oasis album - so there'll always be something

in the house no one will give a toss about burning if this cold snap continues Norman Tebbit voodoo figure. Pins not included

Gaggia ice-cream machine Gaggia stomach pump

Barbie's combined dream house and lesbian disco Strategically placed tattoo, "no smaller than 12pt, in a distinctive or hold typeface", proclaiming "Abandon hope all ye who enter here", as specified by recent European directive

en Barfield

The Late of Late

274

Club mix of "I Lost my Heart to a Starship Trooper" Fun fur. Stole, muff, chubby coat ... It's the thought that counts. And perish the thought

Pink Power Ranger Thong/sling/nipple-ring/Prince Albert. (Readers wish-

ing to know what a Prince Albert is, please send sae, with parents' written consent, to John Lyttle, "The Independent", etc) Mapplethorpe/Weber/Hockney prints: the sort

that must be removed from the walls in advance of visits from Mummy, Daddy or any New Labour MP Snow (to be taken internally)

Gilded mirror. It's the gift that just keeps on giving Gianni Versace's Miami mansion ... Oh, please - like it wasn't on the market the very next day M&S underwear

S&M underwear

Wallet-sized Identikit photo of Tony Blair's hairdresser. Available from Interpol, Scotland Yard, Girl Power

Will power

Bie, bagg, woollen cardigan, beige or brown or covered with what shop assistants have been trained to call "a cheerful pattern", is offending article appears to have dropped too much acid during the Sixties. A vital addition to wour wardrobe if you're still passing for straight Christmas stocking(s). A vital addition to your wardrobe if you're over passing for straight Soup on a rope (for the rope, dummy)

Affidavit stating that every boyfriend you've ever had has seen the error of his ways, sobs uncontrollably into his pillow each night and wants you back in his rather under-developed arms. Signed in blood (this affidavit does not affect your statutory rights) Bath cubes. They're fun!

Peace and goodwill to all men. Particularly the type who has the class to ring next day - whoever he is A reason to believe (see above)

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Henlow Grange: 01462 811111 (gift vouchers available) Swatch: 0800 192192



Ffion, your hen night had nothing on this...

William Hague climbed up Ben Nevis for his stag do. Yawn. At least Ffion was up for The Full Monty on her night out.

But Clare Garner could

really tell them a thing or two about how to let your hair down at a prenuptial bash...

Ffion Jenkins and my friend Frog have never met, but this weekend they might - sipping cocktails on the veranda of the Lake Palace Hotel in Udaipur, Raiasthan. They have married in the same week and are honeymooning at the same hotel. The making more bawdy arrangemost significant thing that the two newlyweds share, however. is their ability to beat the bucks at their own game. For when it the SWS (Social, Welsh, Sexy) ed to be blokes for the night,"

simply outstagged the stags. William Hague brought

down the curtain on his bachclor days with a hike up Ben Nevis, by all accounts an outing as tame as it sounds. "It was all very civilised. We got up at dawn and headed for the hills," says the best man. Nick Levy. Afterwards, they had what he described as "cosy chais". MP Alan Duncan, the tory leader's political secretary and one of his six stags, says the day was "on the right side of decorum... under control rather than out of control." The Scotsman described it as "a case of men behaving sadly".

Meanwhile Ffion, 29, was ments. Her hen night was reportedly "a relatively raucous ing of The Full Monty.

Likewise Phillipa Shakerley, known to her friends as Frog - or Ffrog, if you like - went one step further in the laddishness stakes. She went to the dogs, in the nicest possible way. Last Saturday, at 6.45pm prompt. Dave the minibus driver drew up at Frog's front door. She went out to greet him, only to be told: "I've come to pick up a party of blokes to take them down to the dogs." A kerfuffle of legs, boots and cleavages later, he realised his mistake. Twenty-one nubile, shricking women climbed aboard, their feather hoas streaking behind them.

A trip to a health farm would have been too wholesome; a genteel night-in discussing Janet Reger underwear affair" with fellow members of just not enough fun. "We wantcame to celebrating their pre- Club. They went out on the town says Frog. 27. "Lager, scampi nuptials. Fifon and Frog quite for dinner and on to a screen- and chips, wolf whistles and bet-

ting slips was my idea of a night out. The stags sat in a restaurant eating beef entrecote and drinking bellinis. The hens evening took place down at

the Wimbledon dogs." There was a surprise in store for Frog. too. When we arrived at the stadium, she was handed a programme and instructed to turn to the 10th race, There it was: "The Phillipa Shakerley Hen Night Stakes (The Frog Race). Trophy presented by Phillipa Shakerley." (For £150 anyone can sponsor a race.) Armed with greasy dinners, plastic pints of lager and packets of fags, we nested 10th race, we flew down to the pits for a punt on the big one. The fact that every other racegoer was on tenterhooks for the 12th, the Thoroughbred Investments Oaks Final, one of

hound season, was lost on us. "Oh, here come the Phillipas," remarked one bookie, as we deseended on the pits for the Prog Race. 'Awe, bleedin' hell. It's the Spice Girls," said another, Mo-

ments later. Frog was chalking up the odds and fielding a barrage of proposals from punters. Her moment of glory came when she climbed on to her Astroturf platform to present the glass howl to the winning owners.

trend, it seems. As men get tamer, women are gamer. Madame JoJos, the transvestite club in Soho, has recently been overun with hens. "We've had down for the night. Come the so many down here recently that we're really not encouraging it." says a spokeswoman, "We don't want the club full of girls.

Rachel Loos, deputy editor celebrate their marital rite of the manager refused. It might the high-points of the grey- passage riotously, sometimes have been one fence too far.

with trips to Amsterdam, Ibiza and Dublin. "The attitude is 'Have as good a time as you can'. No one worries about decorum. It's about giving the bride the send-off of her life."

Les Barnes, who drives luxury limousines, finds women "far worse" pre-nuptial passengers than men. "Eight girls get into one limo and, before you know it, they're mooning out of the back window and Frog and Ffion are part of a standing up out of the surroof without anything on above their waists." he says.

Dave, our minibus driver, doesn't know how lightly he got off. And James, the token cock in Frog's hen party, had a narrow escape, too. The bride-tobe had wanted to top off her night with a quick circuit round the track; all 21 girls in hot purof Company, says her readers suit of the one man. Fortunately,

المتكان الامل

after years of struggle, convinced

Bomber Command that pilots

who left their IFF (identification

friend-or-foc) sets switched on

over Germany guided German

night fighters on to themselves.

It was Jones who played a lead-

ing part in discovering what the

V-1 and the V-2 were, and how

they might best be countered.

Several times over, he found

himself confronted by Winston

Churchill, in meetings of min-

isters and experts: even

Churchill's personality was not

so strong that Jones fell silent

in his presence. By standing up

to him, he helped to persuade

him to give orders on which the

nation's safety turned: though of

course he earned enemies for

himself among the bureaucrais

fully unless he was privy to

every secret. He was cleared to

receive messages from the ul-

tra secret decipher service at

Bletchley Park: he was cleared

were received, not in the laun-

dered form in which they

reached lesser intelligence of-

ficers; he knew a great deal both

about impending operations

and about the current organi-

sation of the armed forces, the

air force in particular. He knew

work was in progress on an

atomic bomb. He was a large

man, broad-shouldered and

over six feet tall, with a strong

voice when he cared to raise it.

Moreover, he had a discon-

certing habit of usually being in the right, as well as displaying

admirable manners when he

was in the wrong - as of course

As soon as he was released

he sometimes was.

Jones could not work use-

of Whitehall.

Lillian Disney

Lillian Bounds: born Lapwai, Idaho 1899; married 1925 Walt Disney (died 1966; one daughter, and one daughter deceased), 1969 John Truyens (died 1981); died Los Angeles lé December 1997.

"I'm sorry." said Lillian Disney to her husband Walt. "You can't call a mouse Mortimer."

"Why not?" asked Wait. "I used to have a mouse in my old studio in Kansas City, I called him Mortimer.

"No," said Lillian. "Mortimer Mouse, it's not catchy enough, Change it to Mickey."

And so Mickey Mouse was born on a train from New York to Los Angeles. Or a legend was born, according to whether you believe the Disney studio's publicity department, who have nurtured Mickey's tale since the Thirties.

One fact is firm; Lillian was certainly Walt Disney's first and only wife, and mother of his daughters Diane and Sharon. Outliving her late husband by 31 years to the day, Mrs Disney died on Tuesday at the age of 98. She was born Lunan in Lapwai, Idaho, the daughter She was born Lillian Bounds of a federal marshal and blacksmith, and attended the Idaho Business College before moving to Los Angeles to share a flat with a girlfriend. Her roommate was an art assistant at the small Walt Disney Animation Studio, and, when her boss asked her if she knew anyone who could help out with the inking and painting of the celluloid

cels, she recommended Lillian. Disney was going through the usual crisis that affected independent film producers, a somewhat bent distributor. Walt was making cartoons under contract to Charles Mintz in liew York, the adventures of a

combination of a living actress the black porter polish the with drawn figures was nothing passengers' shoes. original with Disney, but he had brought the technique to a reasonably amusing perfection. Or rather, his chief cartoonist he was better as a producer than

A new character at a new price was needed, and Mintz sent his brother-in-law George Winkler to Los Angeles to pose the problem. Disney and Iwerks came up with Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, but after a good start Winkler demanded a cut in Disney's price per reel. Unable to agree, Disney refused and Winkler fired him, passing Oswald over to his young rival Walter Lantz. Winkler had kept hold of the copyright.

By this time Disney had both a studio to maintain and a wife to support. Disney was basically a somewhat shy chap; his proposal and subsequent wedding had not exactly been as romantic as movie love affairs should be. He was paying Lillian Bounds \$15 a week and to each night in his car. As he was seems a reasonable arrangefell behind in her salary payments and married her to save the mounting expense of the backlog. Even then Disney had several critics on his underpaid staff and this yarn may be taken with the proverbial pinch.

What is a matter of record is that they married in the Fire Chief of Lewington, Idaho, in July 1925. Walt's proposal had shall I buy a new car or a wed-

After living a while in a small apartment the couple bought a prefabricated Tudorstyle house at Silver Lake, not and partner Ubbe Iwerks had, far from Hyperion Avenue for already Disney was showing where Disney had bought an empty store and converted it into his studio. The purchase price of the house was \$7,000.

Disney's fateful trip to New York, when he gave up Oswald the Rabbit and worked out his new star, Mickey Mouse, was to be the turning-point of his life - eventually. The first two Mickey films, animated by Ubbe Iwerks, were not yet publicly shown when Al Jolson burst into audible song in The Jazz Singer (1927). Immediately Disney knew what he must do and set his studio working on a third Mouse cartoon. This was Steamboat Willie, designed to carry a soundtrack of music and effects specially synchronised to Iwerks's rhythmic pictures. The film opened at the Colony Theatre, New York, on 20 November 1928 in support of a forgotten feature called Gang War. It was a huge help her out drove her home success with the audience, who applauded, and the critics, who only paying himself \$35 this. raved. "It is impossible to describe this riot of mirth," said the ment, but the story goes that he Exhibitors' Herald. "It knocked me out of my seat!"

> After long years of hard work Disney had finally made it - although it must be added that Steamboat Willie was not the world's first animated cartoon with a soundtrack, despite the claims of all Disney histories.

The work now piled up on house of Lillian's brother, the Disney to such an extent that he would take Lillian out to dinner, drop by the studio afterwards, been unorthodox: "I've got \$75; and while she dozed on the couch he would work away, ofding ring?" The honeymoon was ten until three in the morning. equally off-centre. Their wed- Lillian would then wake, Walt ding night was spent aboard a would tell her it was half past live little girl and her animated train to Seattle, where Walt de-ten, and they would drive home. animal friends in a series known veloped a violent toothache Now and then he would buy her Park Racetrack. It is said that as Alice in Cartoonland. The and spent the night helping a gift as an apology, once giv- all this physical exercise re-



ing her a hatbox containing surprise! -a chow puppy with a ribbon round its neck. Badly overworked, Disney

was sent on a holiday trip by his doctor, and when the pair returned he plunged forcefully into sports, trying everything in sight from athletics to golf. Lillian went with him but, as she said, "He would fly into such a rage when he missed a stroke that I would get helplessly hysterical watching him."

Soon Disney took up polo. buying himself a string of 20 horses and eventually purchasing an interest in the Hollywood

moved an apparent disability for the Disneys to have children.

Although Lillian changed Disney's fortunes when she changed the name of Mortimer to Mickey, her reactions to her husband's proposal for his first feature-length cartoon, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, in 1936, was directly opposite. "Dwarfs?" she said, as Disney was fond of quoting. "But there's something so nasty about them!"

The film has of course become a landmark in animation history, mainly due to the totally delightful Doc, Happy, Sneezy, Sicepy, Bashful, Dopey, and even the grim Grumpy.

in London in 1923 and from that

time on was an enthusiastic fol-

lower. Lewis was horrified, and

out of this emerged what they

called their "Great War" over

Anthroposophy and related is-

sues. But the friendship re-

mained and grew inward to

thought of it. "I think," she said, 'Walt would have approved." With Disney's increasing - Denis Gifford

Barfield heard Steiner lecture tension between the demands

Director of Intelligence 1941-46, Director of Intelligence 1946-52; CBE 1942; Professor of Natural Philosophy, Aberdeen University 1946-81 (Emeritus); Director of Scientific Intelligence, Ministry of Defence 1952-53; Chairman, Air Defence Working Party 1963-64; FRS 1965; CH 1994; married 1940 Vera Cain (died 1992; one son, one daughter, and one daughter deceased); died

Professor

Reginald Victor Jones,

physicist: born London 29

September 1911; Scientific

Air Staff 1939-41, Assistant

Officer, Air Ministry 1936-39,

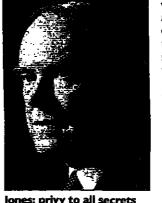
R. V. Jones

R. V. Jones was one of the main wizards during the secret war against Hitler, became a pillar of scientific education, and wrote some notable books.

Aberdeen 17 December 1997.

His father was a sergeantmajor in the Grenadier Guards, and from him he learnt both pato read spies' reports, as they triotism and a sense of order. He went to Alleyn's School at Dulwich, from which he won an exhibition at Wadham College, Oxford, where he distinguished himself so much that he was encouraged to stay on, to take a doctorate in physics and to research under the future Lord Cherwell in the Clarendon Laboratory. He specialised in infrared rays, and spent the years 1934-36 at Balliol, as Skynner Senior Student in Astronomy: but then moved over to deal with the more pressing problems of the German menace. He was made a scientific officer at the Air Ministry in 1936. His brother Roy opened the and was seconded for a year to theme park with a touching the Admiralty in 1938-39. In speech about Walt and his works. both departments he applied a

from National Service, he was snapped up by Aberdeen University, where he spent 35 years as Professor of Natural Philosophy, teaching generations of undergraduates and research students who appreciated his wit, his knowledge, and his enormous fund of common sense. He was fond of quoting Crow's Law - "Do not believe what you want to believe until you know what you ought to know."



Jones: privy to all secrets

Photograph: Lotte Meitner-Graf

first-class scientific intellect to practical problems of warfare. When the Second World War began, he became MI6's principal scientific adviser; the subject in detail; and he left keeping up his Air Ministry connection for cover. His first important task was to discover how Luftwaffe pilots navigated when they overflew England by night, during the Battle of Britain and the blitz. He unravelled the Lorenz beam navigation systems they were using, and was sometimes able to jam, sometimes to divert their beams. On the night of the Coventry raid in mid-November 1940. Jones guessed correctly which wavelength they would be using; a clerical error transmitted the guess wrongly to the jamming stations, and so helped to account for the raid's success.

It was Jones who briefed the RAF expert who dropped by parachute on to the Bruneval radar site, in February 1942, to dismantle a German radar device and bring it back for inspection. It was Jones who,

When Churchill came back into office in 1951, he tried to recall Jones to Whitehall: an embarrassed year in 1952-53 as director of scientific intelligence at the Ministry of Defence resulted. Long afterwards. Jones explained that intelligence could not usefully be organised in committees of fairly senior officers who knew nothing about official life for academic. He did notable work for the Royal Society, and belonged to institutes and academies for the promotion of electronic research, almost without number. He wrote numerous scientific papers, and naners on the history of science. as well as two remarkable studies in the practice of his wartime craft: Most Secret War (1978, called in America The Wizard War); and Reflections on Intelligence (1989). They are much the best and fullest books ever to have appeared on the wartime secret service's workings.

At the age of 80, he lost in a fortnight his wife of over 50 years and one of his daughters: he went on writing learned articles all the same, a model to younger scholars of devotion to even temper, good-humour and scientific truth.

- M. R. D. Foot

Owen Barfield

Arthur Owen Barfield, writer and solicitor: born London 9 November 1898; FRSL 1950; married 1923 Matilda Dewey (died 1980: two sons, one daughter); died Forest Row, East Sussex 14

. Owen Barfield was described by C.S. Lewis as "the wisest and best of my unofficial teachers". He met Lewis, his exact contemporary, when he went up to Oxford in 1919, "Barfield towers above us all!" wrote. States his books have a large Lewis in his diary. They were following. both 20, and out of their friendship one of the most remarkable literary and theological movements of the 20th century - "the luklings" - was born. By the mid-1920s they had been joined by J.R.R. Tolkien. In time Hugo Dyson, W.H. Lewis, Charles Williams and others followed.

Barfield was born in London in 1898. His father was a solicwar, his mother an ardent sufstragette. He was educated at Highgate School and, after serving in the Royal Corps of Signals during the First World War, came up to Wadham College on a classical scholarship. He met C.S. Lewis during his first term.

On graduating in English, Barfield remained in Oxford to write the thesis for his BLitt which became Pretic Diction: a study in meaning (1928), a book that had a profound effect on Lewis and Tolkien. The year after it was nublished, however. he returned to London to assist his father in the family law firm, Barfield and Barfield. Most of his books were not written until he retired from the law in 1959 Thereafter he was a visiting scholar in many American universities, and in the United

Someone watching from the sidelines might have imagined that Barfield and Lewis were enemies. This was because, while both argued for truth, they saw things from different angles. Writing about Barfield in his 1956 book Surprised by Joy, Lewis spoke of him as a friend

who disagrees with you about everything. He is not so much the alter ego as the anti-self. Of course he shares your interests . . . But he has ap-proached them all at a different angle. He has read all the right books but has got the wrong thing out of every one ... How can he be so near-ly right and yet, invariably, just not right! He is as fascinating (and in-(uriating) as a woman. When you set out to correct his heresies, you find he forwith has decided to correct



Barfield and C.S. Lewis: the 'Cretaceous Perambulators'

yours! And then you go at it, ham-mer and tongs, far into the night . . . more often like mutually respeciful enemies than friends ... Out of this perpetual doglight a community of mind and a deen affection. emerge . . . I think he changed me nore than I him.

Barfield was amazed that Lewis would think so, for to him keeping up with Lewis was Tlike trying to run along beside a motorcar in top gear".

Lewis was an atheist until his conversion in 1931, and Barfield played a large part in bringing particular contribution was to studying the world of spirit, which Barfield wrote about the

demolish Lewis's "chronological snobbery", which Lewis defined as "the uncritical accentance of the intellectual climate common to our own age and the assumption that whatever has gone out of date is on that account discredited".

One of the issues Barfield was (to Lewis) so infuriating about was Anthroposophy. In leader of a German section of the Theosophical Society, and over the years sought to elabo-

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (1950) is dedicated. It was during the early days of his marriage, when he was living in Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, that some of Barfield's most seminal works were published. Besides Poetic Diction, there were The Silver Trumper (1925) and History in English

ings of words but what he called 1913 Rudolf Steiner became the an "evolution of consciousness". During his 30 years as a solicitor he helped Lewis set up the charming jeu d'esprit entitled him to the Christian faith. His rate a scientific method of This Ever Diverse Pair (1950), in

Words (1926), which is not mere-

ly about the changes in the mean-

found time for much he had wanted to say. In his own favourite of his books, Saving the Appearances (1957), he exam-

of the legal profession and the

need to live in the larger world

about when Barfield was 60.

Following his retirement, he

A revolution in his life came

of thought and letters.

success came some indulgences.

One was the fruition of a child-

hood love of steam trains. He

built a huge model railway in his

back garden and when he

wasn't working overtime at the

studio spent hours giving his

children, their chums and a re-

luctant Lillian trips around

their lawn. His ultimate toy, the

first Walt Disney World, was not

completed until after his death.

Afterwards he asked Walt's wid-

ow what Walt would have

the bone. Barfield's views, like Steiner's, were rooted in Christian and Trinitarian thought, but ines the disparity between northey also embraced mysticism. mal human consciousness and In 1923 Barfield married the mind of the scientist in com-Matilda ("Maud") Dewey, a prehending the familiar pheprofessional dancer and pronomena of the universe. His ducer who had worked with other works include Worlds Apart (1960), Unancestral Voice Gordon Craig. They had three (1965), Speaker's Meaning children, to one of whom, Lucy, (1967), What Coleridge Thought (1971) and The Rediscovery of Meaning (1977).

Following his wife's death, Barfield moved from their home in Dartford, Kent, in 1986 to Forest Row in Sussex. There he continued to welcome visitors. his mind as clear as always. Owen Barfield was a small,

lithe man, fond of cats and an enthusiastic walker. (He and C.S. Lewis called themselves the "Cretaceous Perambulators".) While others were making plans for his centenary he slipped away quietly, dying peacefully at home on 14 December.

- Walter Hooper

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTH\$

KILLNER / VASSILIADES: Jessica and Alex are happy to amounce the birth of Zeno Alexandros, on 13 De-cember 1997, a brother for Suppho

DEATHS

HERRICIG Bunney, CVO, Peacefully, at St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh, on 17 December 1997. Funcral service at 11,30am, Monday 22 December, at St Giles' Cathedral, Service of Thanksgiving at 11,30am, Sunday 4 January 1998, at St Giles' Cathedral, No fracers, Donations to Decemberate. No flowers, Donations to Department of Clinical Oncology, Western Gen-eral Hospital, Edinburgh EH4 2XU.

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen was the Queen's Royal Labour at Helveri Castle, Grantham, Landwindow, to man-her 5th user as Lob weben Chefron the Repment The Prince of Walds, Patres, Breand Caster Hely

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Sir Antony Buck QC, former MP, 69; The Right Rev Ian Harland, Bishor of Carlisle, 65; Brigadier Lewis Har-ris, cartographer, 87; Mr Syd Little, comedian, 55; Mr Robert Ponsonby, tormer Controller of Music, BBC, 70. The Marquess of Queensherry, for mer protessor of ceramics at the Roy al College of Art, 68; Dr David 14-we-Beddoe, chairman, Welsh De velopment Agency, 60; Sir David Rowe-Ham, former Lord Mayor of London, 62: Lord Weir, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 66:

Anniversaries

Births: Edith Pist (Edith Giovanna Gassion), singer, 1915, Deaths: Emily Bronte, novelist, 1848. On this day: Ted Hughes was appointed Poet Laurente, 1984, Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius I of Antioch, it Gregory of Auxerre. St Nemesius of Alexandria and St Timothy,

Mr Maurice White, rock singer, 56

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.38pm.

United Synagogues: 081-343 8999. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 1263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 071-380 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0281-349 4731. Spanish and

LAW REPORT: 19 DECEMBER 1997

Injunction would prevent former spy from profiting from book

Although the Crown had no private law remedy to prevent a former secret intelligence officer who had been convicted of offences under the Official Secrets Act 1911 from receiving royalties for his autobiograph an injunction could be granted to prevent him from profiting from his crime. Attorney General v Blake: Court Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master آب of the Rolls, Lord Justice Millett

and Lord Justice Mummers 1

k December 1997.

The Court of Appeal granted an injunction restraining the respondent, George Blake, from receiving or from authorising any person to receive on his behalf any payment or other ben-

tion of No Other Choice in any Jonathan Cape Ltd in Sep-substantial royalties for the ma facie entitled the Crown to claim for profits made from form or of any information therein relating to security and intelligence which was or had been in his possession by virtue of his position as a member of the Secret Intelligence Services.

The respondent had been a member of the SIS from 1944 until May 1961, when he pleaded guilty to five counts of unlawfully communicating information, contrary to section 1(1)(c) of the Official Secrets Act 1911. Between 1951 and his Pushpinder Saini (Treasury Solicitor) arrest in 1960 he had become as amici curine. an agent for the Soviet Union and had disclosed secret information of considerable value. down the judgment of the He was sentenced to 42 years' imprisonment, but escaped

from prison in 1966 to Moscow. Torney General was entitled to clearance he was in breach of cfit resulting from or in autobiography, entitled No lic law to prevent a former connection with the exploita- Other Choice, published by member of the SIS receiving

tember 1990. He had neither sought nor received any licence or permission from the Crown for the publication of the book, and the manuscript had not been submitted for prior approval. £90,000 remained payable by the publishers.

Lard Falconer QC, Solicitor General, Philip Havers QC, Mary Vitona QC, Stephen Richards and Aidan Robertson (Treasury Solicitor) for the Attorney General; Lord Lester QC and

Lord Woolf, MR. handing court, said that the issues on the appeal were whether the At-The action arose out of his any remedy in private or pub-

uscript had been, but was no

respondent had acted in breach the book. The respondent was bound by an undertaking signed when he joined the service not obiter, view. to disclose information which was still confidential. By submitting the manuscript without contract, but not in breach of fiduciary duty.

publication of his book, when an injunction and damages. breach of contract in approthe submission of the manu- Since the Crown had not priate circumstances. In the abscript for publication had been sought an injunction to prevent in breach of contract and a publication, and could not now criminal offence, and when establish any loss, it was enticertain information in the man- tled to no more than nominal damages. The court had invitlonger, secret or confidential. ed submissions on the question Under the private law claim, whether the Crown might have the Attorney contended that the a claim to restitutionary dam-

ages for breach of contract. of the fiduciary duty he owed to Although the Attorney had the Crown, which was the ben-decided not to advance such a eficial owner of the copyright in claim, the subject was of some ensuring that a criminal did not importance and the court expressed a tentative, though The general rule was that

damages for breach of contract were compensatory, not restitutionary. The time had now come, however, to accept the

sence of a substantial claim for damages for breach of contract. however, the private law claim must be dismissed.

With regard to the public law claim, the present case was an exceptional one in which the Attorney was entitled to intervene by instituting civil proceedings, in aid of the criminal law, to uphold the public policy of retain profit directly derived from the commission of his crime. The court had power to grant an injunction, and the money which would be subject to it would be liable to confiscation. - Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

view that the law was suffi- . The LAW REPORT resumes with The breach of contract pri- ciently mature to recognise a the new Law Term on 12 January.



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Before we congratulate our founding editor on his appointment as the nation's chief censor, we should pause to ask what the British Board of Film Classification is actually for. Its title and constitution. as a body set up by the film industry, but with quasi-judicial powers, have a fustiness about them. And sometimes the very idea of censorship can seem somewhat antique.

Most adults will associate the board with the adolescent naughtiness of trying to get into X-rated pictures. For some it might recall the pervasive and sometimes irrational wartime censorship parodied in Catch-22, when Yossarian got the job of blacking out words and phrases in airmen's letters home and spent a whole day unspringing the rhythms in them.

Nowadays censorship seems at once a more serious and a more hopeless task. The range, depravity and accessibility of what is portrayed in moving images, with sound attached (sometimes rather unconvincingly), is indeed alarming. But we

should not be too impressed by the vivid tableau, often painted, of the rickety defences of civilised values being swept away by a tide of unstoppable filth, much of it foreign. Satellite broadcasting and the Internet certainly pose new and difficult questions of cross-border policing. But the implied choice thus presented, that we should either ahandon censorship or adopt a repressive policy of national autarky, is a false one. Just because breakins occur, there is no reason to legalise burglary or shoot all burglars.

The only sensible policy is to engage in the argument: to establish clear rules and guidelines, accept that some dirty water will find its way past the defences and to attend always to the causes of things rather than to superficial phenomena. This last is perhaps the most important. We must move the debate on from the pointless attempts to "prove" that screen violence causes real violence. Apparently a Home Office study to be published next

month will "demonstrate" a link between violent films and the behaviour of young offenders. Of course there is a link. Not in the simple sense that Dustin Hoffman suggested last year, when he asked if there was a connection between Hollywood's products and the massacres in Dunblane and Tasmania. Sick people will do sick things regardless of whether they have seen The Terminator. But the forms their madness takes will always be shaped by something, be it popular culture, religious visions or media reporting of the actions

Censorship cannot be decided on the basis of what might send deranged people over the brink, but rather as a kind of collective agreement that enables a society to rub along together. It needs to reinforce the rules we set for acceptable behaviour, while allowing the expression and understanding of irregular behaviour. Young offenders may choose to watch films which suggest to them that violence is a good way

of other sick people.

of resolving disputes or asserting identity. But they will only act on those assumptions if there are no countervailing forces in their families or social groups.

Film-makers and censors need to worry, then, about violence with no moral context, or presented as a source of sexual pleasure. Difficult judgements have to be made, particularly about artistic exploration of the darker side of the human character, but just because they are difficult does not mean they should not be attempted.

Sex, on the whole, should worry the censors less. It too needs to be seen in the context of social rules which enable us to co-exist in mutual respect. If people want to play voyeur on filmed acts of consensual sex, few of us can think of any good reason for preventing them. The only argument against pornography (minus violence) is the continuing concern about the portrayal of women. But that is a matter for social concern, not legal repression.

For these reasons, the system of age

certification is a good one. It helps to manage the transition of responsibility from society as a whole to the parent. The primary responsibility for ensuring that children understand and learn from what they watch lies with parents or guardians, and the system provides a useful guide to what sort of thing to expect.

Most importantly, the censors should be confident that they can account for their decisions, because all they are doing is acting as our proxies. One reason for welcoming Andreas Whittam Smith's appointment is that the BBFC has undermined the case for censorship by a series of inconsistent and mistaken rulings in recent years. Jack Straw was right to break the convention that Home Secretaries will rubber-stamp an appointment decided on the basis of Buggin's Turn, and for using his power of veto to install a new broom. We hope and expect that this new broom will bring a coherence and a credibility to the regulation of public taste.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Soldiers and sex

Sir: Colonel Neil Donaldson's remarks (report, 17 December) about two women in Catterick, who may or may not have HIV, are very revealing about the Army's sexism.

It's fine for soldiers to be promiscuous but, at the first hint of danger, Colonel Donaldson accuses the women who have sex with these soldiers of being "liberal with their affections ... and ... not averse to indulging in casual sex, often unprotected while his young soldiers ... are somehow vulnerable". Isn't it time that the Army started recruiting real men who are responsible for their own actions? PETER J RIMMER London EC2

Sir: Who knows that two local women are HIV positive? If the Army commander has indeed been informed of this, both he and the health services are guilty of a massive breach of confidentiality.

The wider danger is that this incident feeds Jack Straw's counter-productive proposal to consider making HIV transmission a crime. The truth is that we all have responsibilities for our own consenting sexual actions and government has a responsibility for providing more, better, and continuing HIV education and for supporting people living with HIV, who need privacy and confidentiality, not press hysteria and criminality.

JOHN NICHOLSON Director George House Trust

Manchester

Attack on disabled

Sir: I write on behalf of a group of relatives in the Cambridge area who care for Alzheimer's patients in our own homes.

We resent becoming an easy target for Blair's welfare "reforms" ("Blair is on a mission", 15 December). By all means let him crack down on fraudulent claims, but he must not use a scattered blunderbuss attack which barms those with genuine

Several of us who are under 65 have given up good jobs in order to care for a spouse or parent. In some families where both the a younger victim and a spouse who cares full-time can no longer go out to work, the

financial blow is horrific: I reckon that over the course of this very long and terminal illness my husband and I together will lose quarter of a million pounds in potential earnings. Taxing or means-testing the disability living allowance (DLA) hits a family when it is down and is immoral and offensive.

All of us greeted with hol-

PRIESTLEY

low laughter the exhortation that people on benefits should be helped back into work. As carers, we receive £37.35 a week invalid care allowance for round-the-clock care of an extremely difficult pature. That works out at 22p an hour. We do a job which it would cost the state 10 times as much to provide in a residential home. Yet we carers are not allowed to earn, even if we were able to, more than £50 a week clear. And the cost of buying-in a sitting service for our relative in

our absence? Between £5 and But here's the real crunch. When a person with dementia

finally enters a nursing home or mental hospital (which then claims the DLA and other pensions), it would be down to the cash-strapped social services or NHS to make up any shortfall such as that created by a means-test or tax deduction on the DLA. So all that Blair will bave done is to shift part of the burden of cost from central gov-

lous, or just plain thick? We hope that rebellious MPs will deliver the answer. BARBARA POINTON

Thriplow, Cambridgeshire

Sir: If "Blair is on a mission" (report, 15 December), he must make some theological dis-

He is quite right to want to reduce the social security bill, but the social security bill is not the fault of the welfare state. Social security is a demand-led

budget and measures failures in

the real economy. He would do

more to lower the benefit bill by

repairing the London Tube and by bringing down the level of the pound than by any changes in welfare he can imagine. There are measures which social security can contribute to

MINISTER

SCOTLAND

reducing the welfare bill and most of these the Taylor review of the poverty trap has in hand. Mr Blair must take care that in encouraging people into work he does not destroy the essenernment to local council or health services, Clever, caltial safeguard of a free market, that jobs must be made sufficiently attractive for people to want to take them. If he destroys this, he sets up a system of conscription, which in peacetime is unacceptable and un-

enforceable. The one measure he has so far introduced which is likely to produce a significant reduction of the welfare bill is the national minimum wage, and on that I congratulate him. Earl RUSSELL

Liberal Democrat Social Security Spokesman

Green challenge

Sir: Charles Arthur neatly summarises the CBI's lobbying position on Britain's target for reducing greenhouse gas pollution after the Kyoto summit ("Labour faces rethink on green-

house-gas curbs", 12 December). The CBI would like the Government to "pluck the lowlying fruit" first - which means the domestic housing sector. And there is "little point" in cutting the main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, if reductions in methane, nitrous oxide HFCs etc have an equivalent effect. Of course CO2 comes mostly from

energy generation. This is the familiar laissezfaire formula in which industry does nothing to change structurally, and "targets" are simply set at what emissions will be anyway. Hence they are "realistic and achievable".

This is all tinkering in the margins. For cuts of 10-20 per cent such trade-offs may seem ingenious but cuts of up to 60 per personnel, in a social history col-

cent are needed in a few decades

if climate is to be protected. The CBI needs to accept that UK industry must invest in order to become clean, viable and productive for the future, rather than try to cut corners, put off change and hope that enough householders will lag their lofts to enable boardrooms to continue to snooze peacefully.

CHRIS ROSE Deputy Executive Director Greenpeace UK London NI

20th century voices

Sir: I was surprised to read Paul McCann's article "BBC to tape the people's 20th century" (12 December).

The Imperial War Museum Sound Archive already has some 28,000 hours of "people talking about their lives during the 20th century". Our 25-year-old, ongoing, oral history programme comprises recordings of men and women, civilians and service lection that documents the entire century, including the two major wars, up to the present day. It covers such areas as employment, domestic life, medicine and health, sex, food, religion, technology, entertainment and pol-

fear, humour, love and loss. Listening copies of our master recordings are available in analogue and digital formats. The archive is regularly consulted free of charge by academics, schools groups, authors, broadcasters and interested in-

itics. The accounts span courage,

dividuals. Efforts to expand the documentation of this century's history via professional oral history interviews should be applauded. It would, however, be wrong to give the impression that we must wait for the millennium and the efforts of the BBC in order to listen to the tales of this century.

MARGARET BROOKS Keeper of the Sound Archive Imperial War Museum

Rail by road

Sir. The practice of transporting trains by road (Letters, 14, 13 December) predates privatisation and has nothing to do with access charges imposed by Railtrack. It is intrinsically linked to the lack of a level playing field in transport costs.

As a result of rail privatisation, for the first time in nearly half a century the real costs of using the network, including external costs such as policing and environmental management, are now known and are passed on to train and freight operating companies. If the price of hauling a train by road included external elements such as environmental clean-up, traffic policing and a contribution towards the cost of congestion to business, rail might be the more cost-effective op-

MIKE GIBSON London E15

Sir: The still nationalised British Rail accepted several years ago that its enormous consumption of diesel fuel would be much less expensive if delivered by road tankers, rather ian dy its own tali system

As long as this ridiculous situation is allowed to prevail, Britain's roads will continue to be choked by HGVs. It must make both economic and ecological sense for the rail net- 🖠 work to be the main freight distributor, with road transport taking over for the link from the rail-head to the final destination. J WYSE

Birmingham

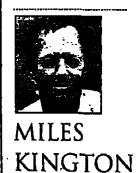
London shunned

Sir: I suspect your survey comparing French and British attitudes to each other (17. December) makes the mistake of taking London as the voice of Britain. I doubt whether 50 per cent of British people vould wish to live in London 🚜 let alone the French. JAMES T HIRST Nottingham

Fashion fan

Sir. Loved your lingerie featur (17 December). Could we please have more of the same, with the same model if possible ... perhaps on page three in future? NORMAN HOUSLEY Leicester

The whole shopping centre was in on the act — even Father Christmas



and final part of our Christmas story set in the tough world of retail trade.

There is far too much shoplifting going on in the trendy Atrium shopping mall, so general manager Don orders security head Gerry to show that his security men wean business. Gerry seeks publicity by getting out-of-work actor Lenny to pretend to be a shop-lifter. Lenny is pursued by two guards down the street, where the public step in - and beat up the security guards! Now read on. "This wasn't the sort of publicity we were looking for, Gerry," said Don. "The idea was

that you would show how good

your guys are at spotting, chas-

and apprehending

Today I bring you the second shop-lifters. But your hired man, your fake shop-lifter, got away. That sends out the wrong message, Gerry."

"Oh, come on - I wasn't expecting the public to intervene!" protested Gerry. "Normally, when you cry 'Stop Thief, the public is expected to stop the thief, not side with him. But my men were deliberately set upon to allow Lenny to get away with this decoy jacket he was making off with!"

"Did we get the jacket back?" inquired Don.

"Sure we did," said Gerry, "At least Lenny is honest! You may not get shop-lifters returning things, but you can generally trust an out-of-work actor. Especially if he hasn't

"Did Lenny have any comment to make on the cock-up." said Don.

"No. Well, he did, but it was only a rather silly suggestion." "Tell me."

"He said, jokingly, that we should have had two fake members of the public, played by actors, ready to leap out and tackle him."

"Two actors arresting another actor?" "Yes."

"I like it," said Don, "Do it." They did it. Lenny ran away again, and was again pursued by the security men, but this time he was stopped in his tracks by the two actors in the crowd, who, disguised as real people, leapt out and put him in a terrible arm-lock.

Unfortunately, this annoved the rest of the crowd, who didn't like to see an unfortunate shop-lifter set on by the forces of righteousness, and they liberated Lenny the actor by using a little bit of force against

the security guards. Lenny brought the jacket back again.

"Tell you what." he said to Gerry, "why don't you have a couple of actors standing by dressed as policemen? Then they could weigh in and rescue me from the actors dressed as members of the public!" "I think you'll find," said Ger-

ry heavily, "that it's an offence to impersonate a police officer." "No. it's not," said Lenny. "Jack Warner impersonated Dixon of Dock Green. Those

blokes in Z Curs did it too, and so, I believe, did John Thaw as inspector Morse and none of them was ever arrested for the crime!! Also ... 'Yes, yes," said Gerry. "I get

your point."

The next time it happened, Lenny ran away with the jackmembers of the public (played by actors) who were supported by a policeman (played by an actor) who was unfortunately impeded by the public (played by themselves) and Lenny got away again. He brought back the jacket again (Armani copy, £229,99),

We could have the public all played by actors next time," said Gerry, hopefully, "Every spectator, every bystander. All fake.

That would be impressive. Incidentally ... "Yes ?"said Don.

"Have you vetted the bloke that plays Father Christmas in the mall? Can you trust him?" "You mean, trust him not to

touch up little children?" "No," said Gerry disgustedet and was apprehended by two by. "Trust him not to shop-lift Father Christmas's costume might have been custom-built for shop-lifting ...

By the time Christmas was only a week away, almost everyone of consequence in the mall was played by an actor. Father Christmas, policemen, members of the public, shop-lifters, everyone. Crime had gone down, sales figures had gone up.

"I think we've turned the corner." said Gerry, when he went

for his quick daily meeting with Don. "Crime is down, impersonation is up. At this rate, all the shopkeepers will be played by actors as well!".

There was no reaction. Then Don turned round. But it wasn't Don! It was someone else!

"I'm afraid Don couldn't make it today," he said, "I'm standing in for him."

The funding for this story has been provided by Equity. the actors' union. This Christmas time, please don't forget out-of-work actors, and please try to use them whenever possible. They can masquerade as anyone - your in-laws, carol singers, waiters at parties etc. They're cheap and they're cheerful, and usually housetrained. You won't regret it!

cook or D

In such a context women,

void of sexuality. As Major-Gen-

eral Ken Perkins wrote in a

letter to the Telegraph, "In war,

there is already enough tension

in the front line, without intro-

ducing an unnecessary element

of sex." The admission of

women and gays into the Army

means that sex will presumably

be thrust onto the agenda where

19/COMMENT

Cook or Dewar: which will be First Minister?



DONALD **MACINTYRE** SCOTLAND'S NEW LEADER.

On his recent visit to Budapest, Robin Cook publicly said twice that he looked forward to returning one day as the Foreign Secretary of one EU member state visiting another EU member state. On the face of it, this was a polite but unremarkable piece of diplomatic orthodoxy: giving a welcome push to Hungary's desire to join an enlarged European Community. To the augurs of Scottish politics, however, it is pregnant with significance. For if Cook meant what he said, he must inally have ruled out the prospect of him becoming the first First Minister of Scotland. On no possible timetable of EU enlargement could Hungary join the EU before Cook would, if he chose to make his career in Scotland, have to take a seat in the new Scottish parliament, forsake the Foreign Secretaryship, and stand for the top job in Edinburgh.

But did he mean what he said in Budapest? Last weekend, Scotland on Sunday set pulses racing with a story suggesting that Cook and Donald Dewar, Scottish Secretary, and hitherto the man most frequently tipped to head the new Scottish executive, had reached a tentative and informal deal - a version of the famous Granita pact under which Gordon Brown abandoned his leadership ambitions in favour of Tony Blair. Allegedly Dewar would stand aside, perhaps seeking instead the speakership of the new Scottish parliament, and allow Cook a clear run at the First Ministership. Liberated from the shackles of collective cabinet responsibility. and from a punishing travel schedule which inevitably removes him from the forefront of domestic politics, the most articulate figure on the neo-Keynesian left in British politics would thus become the most powerful man in Scotland. He would be free at last to put some of his economic and social ideas into practice: socialism in one country. And the ever-modest Dewar would withdraw to relative obscurity, confident of his place in history as the chief architect of the transforming devolution Bill, which he published yesterday and will triumphantly pilot through the Commons next year.

Certainly, such a course would have great attractions for Cook. He shows every sign of enjoying being Foreign Secretary and Tony Blair is said to be among those who regard him as a conspicuous success in the job, particularly in European negotiations. But before he was made shadow Foreign Secretary by Blair and applied himself to the job with all the diligence of the precocious schoolboy swat he once was, Cook's principal interests were all in domestic politics. And it's difficult to see, as long as Blair remains Prime Minister, what Cook's next career move

could be in London. It's scarcely possible at present to imagine Brown vacating the Chancellorship. But even if it wasn't, Cook himself probably accepts deep down that, however well qualified he may be intellectually to go to the Treasury, he would be ideologically unsuitable to do the job in a Blair administration. The Home Office is already pretty well precluded, given that he is a Scottish MP and that the Home Office's writ is mainly confined to England and Wales, It would certainly be so once the Scottish Parliament was in being. This leaves only the sort of cabinet jobs that after the Foreign Office would seem a bit of a letdown, and beside which the First Ministership of Scotland might be a truly thrilling prospect.

So last weekend's story has a superficial plausibility. Cook has not finally made up his mind whether he wants the job; he will no doubt be thinking about it over Christmas. And it's theoretically conceivable that Dewar would stand aside for him. But don't bank on it. First the strength of Dewar's own claim on the job should not be overlooked. From Blair's point of view he would be an ideal choice. Everything Dewar has said over the past couple of years suggests an anxiety to ensure that the Scottish Parliament beds down with a minimum of friction with the UK administration. For all his brilliance Cook might be less, well, predictable. To take just one example, it's easier to imagine Cook chafing at the Labour Party ordinance against use, in the first term of the new parliament, of its tax-raising powers.

Secondly there would be something highly appropriate about Dewar, happier in politics than he has ever been, becoming the first incumbent of a job that he has been so proud as Scottish Secretary to create. Thirdly - though this is a point that will irritate supporters of a Cook First Ministership - Dewar has believed in the Scottish Parliament throughout his political career. By contrast Cook is a (relative) late-comer to the cause of the Scottish parliament, having been a prominent opponent in the 1979 referendum, and having only become a convert after the 1983 general election when Labour slumped to its worst post-war defeat despite success in Scotland. Finally, there is no sign whatever that Dewar has remotely lost interest in taking the job rather the reverse. Nor is there any reason why, at only 60, he should.

In theory, the First Ministership need

not be decided until after the Scottish Parliament elections in May 1999. Formally it is the new parliament that elects the First Minister. Yesterday, briefing on the Bill in London, the Scottish Office minister Henry Macleish declined to confirm absolutely that Labour would enter those elections with a clear candidate for the job at its head. But all the other parties will have leaders; it would be an unthinkably severe handicap for Labour, virtually certain to become the biggest single party, not to be led at the elections by one clear candidate for the top job. And in any case, Cook would have to decide by the middle of next year whether to stand for the Scottish Parliament. He is nine years younger than Dewar, he could yet stand as the second First Minister. These are deep waters: it is unlikely that Cook has yet altogether ruled out the possibility of standing against his old adversary Brown for the UK Prime Ministership in the hugely unlikely event of Tony Blair suddenly bowing out. Easily the best guess is that Cook told the Hunearians the truth.

Fear of Aids is not the only thing that frightens the modern soldier



SUZANNE MOORE ON WHY OUR SOLDIERS CRY

It does not take that much to bring the British army to its knees. I'm not talking chemical warfare here. Something far more deadly has emerged as a serious threat to the safe-keeping of our boys who have been put on slapper alert. Two 19year-old women living in North Yorkshire have been identified as a threat to, according to The Sun, "5,000 troops", because they were said to be deliberately spreading the Aids

This story was prompted by the fact that the garrison commander of Catterick had earlier in the week posted a warning to his troops around the base. This warning said that a confidential source had told him that "at least two females living in the geographical area of Catterick Garrison have contracted the Aids virus and are HTV-positive. These same females are believed to be liberal with their affections, particularly to soldiers, and are not averse to indulging in casual sex. unprotected". Commander Donaldson has since defended this action by saying. "We have a duty of care. We have a lot of very young soldiers who are rather vulnerable."

The two women, who have been practically tarred and feathered by the tabloids, are also perhaps vulnerable. They have not been entitled to any privacy. We know their names, their faces, what one of the estranged husbands thinks, what other people in the village have said about them. One of the women has had her windows broken and has been ostracised by the rest of he village.

All of this strikes me as little more than malicious gossip. rumour-mongering elevated to the level of news. How did Donaldson's confidential source know that these women were HIV positive? Had he seen the results of these women's HIV tests? No. Because the women had not had them. Yesterday one of the women, who has since been tested, announced that she was found negative. One hundred soldiers at the base have also sought medical advice. Of course these soldiers are not to be named, nor will we ever know what sexually

transmitted diseases they may or may not have. Donaldson could easily have issued a safesex warning without scapegoating particular women. However the whole tone of

this "story" has been positively medieval: from the bizarre language of the army bods - "females" used instead of "women" - to the witch hunt of The Sun, which informed us that one of the "girls" doesn't the hard truth is that it is already deserve to be a mum. I take it then, that the 100 soldiers who were also possibly "liberal with their affections" do not deserve ever to be dads. Yet our sympathy is supposed to be with the poor young squaddies. 20 of whom are reported to have broken down in tears.

This is presumably what made Sir Michael Rose, onetime commander of the UN Protection Force in Bosnia write an article that The Daily Telegraph chose tellingly to headline "Why Europe, women and homosexuals threaten our armed forces". This unholy triumvirate, which has apparently done so much to undermine the status of men in civilian life, must not be allowed to affect our boys. Why? Well, our boys destroyed by a "mixture of cultural change within our own society". Soldiers apparently need a different set of moral values because unlike civilians they may be required to kill and be killed. In other words soldiers must

are different and must not be

be protected from the assaults on masculinity that have taken place in the rest of society. But too late. We are talking, are we somehow being submissive to not, of an institution in decline? There are not enough recruits: and the ones that there are do not respond to the endless barracking and physical discipline as before, because men have changed. They are softer. Even their feet are softer because of the wearing of trainers, so they can't get used to hoots. More seriously, the end of the Cold War has meant that the role of the armed forces is itself in question.

While the mythology of active combat is always there, many of the tearful squaddies at Catterick will not actually be required to fight in this way. Their role will be primarily one of peace-keeping duties. and though there may be the Army does not know how to protect its soldiers from: the unholy triumvirate of Europe, women and

Photograph:

odd flare-up it is the élite

troops - the paras, marines and

the commando units that will do

the fighting. There is huge gap

between the glorious rhetoric of

battle and the duller reality of

much army life. Yet it is this

rhetoric that sustains so much

of the sexual anxiety of the

armed forces. Such rhetoric is

always about penetrating the

enemy, "not looking like a

bloody woman" or "a poof", yet

your commanders and lying

down your life for your mate.

Homosexuals and women are

a threat because they rupture

the kinds of male bonding that

sustain this peculiar way of

life. The practice of "sharing

women revealed in this latest

panic, as well as in the recent

rape trial involving several ju-

nior army officers, can be seen

to slip into your top pocket,

but it's certainly not short

as a kind of homo-erotic form of male bonding, but one that is apparently a traditional and acceptable part of army life. whether in the army or outside it, are always going to disrupt this uniformity of masculinity, which is remarkably seen as de-

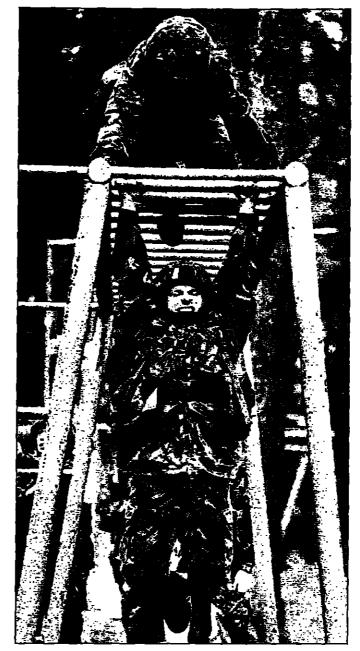
Craig Easton

it was strangely absent before. The question that needs to he asked is whether the Army should be reflecting in any way at all the changes that have taken place in the rest of society or should it further isolate itself from them? Surely the more it "protects" and infantilises its members, because of the need for "soldiers to be different", the less any one will choose this archaic career. In common with so many of our institutions, it has to modernise; and modernisation means that the old enemies of femininity, homosexuality and racial difference have to be incorporated into its ranks rather than excluded. To judge by this week's

events featuring devouring women and cry-baby soldier boys this is virtually impossible. The fear and loathing of "females" expressed by officers, squaddies and newspaper reporters alike has been shameful, but in its own horrible way thoroughly revealing. If 5,000 troops can't cope with two promiscuous teenagers, then its hard to imagine that these same lads will be potential heroes when it comes to anything more demanding. Clearly, as long as these men are encouraged to treat women as an entirely separate species, it unlikely that they will want to serve alongside them on the

might also wonder about the issue of sexual responsibility. Why has it fallen entirely on the women and not the men in this case? In a neat role-reversal, these men, supposedly tougher and more manly than normal men, have been portrayed as blubbering victims of the wicked witches of the North. But if these men are victims at all, they are victims of the Army itself which insists on fighting a losing battle.

Those of us not in the Army



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Appearance and reality in the land of opportunity



DEJEVSKY LYING IN **AMERICA**

Were you ever told not to hide your light under a bushel? In competitive, performance-geared America, such Biblical advice seems quaintly timid. Here, it is a rare creature indeed who lingers in the shadows. Everyone else is out there shining for all they are worth. determined to catch whatever limelight may be going as well.

Sometimes, though, the pressure to shine as brightly as America expects calls for booster batteries and borrowed power, and the attendant risk of posure. The past week has wraished two notable examples: the one tragic, the other

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comic (or nearly), and both in-

Pity poor Larry Lawrence, a millionaire businessman from California grown rich in the hotel business. Wealth alone was not enough for him. Lawrence craved respect, influence and public office. He donated cash to the Democratic Party, gained access to its most luminous star - a certain Bill Clinton and was rewarded in the fullness of time with an ambassadorship. On his way to recognition,

however, Lawrence embellished his CV with an episode of war heroism - an injury sustained while trying to save crewmates during an attack on the Arctic convoys in the Second World War. In life, he got away with it. In death, by an accident of Washington politics, he was found out. Half a century after his fictitious exploit. he fell victim to Republican charges that Democratic Party donors had been able to "buy" burial plots at Arlington cemetery. Last week, Laurence became the first person to be disinterred from the nation's

military burial ground. The irony was that he may not have needed a military history to be buried at Arlington; his death in ambassadorial service might have sufficed. But his who had died in an Alahama lie had been exposed, and America shows no mercy to those who defile what it holds sacred, "Dig Him Up" was the headline on a New York tabloid, even before his widow proposed that very solution.

The other CV polisher was Al Gore, the Vice-President. He told reporters that he was the model for Oliver Barrett IV. the "preppy" law student here of Erich Segal's Love Story. That Al and his wife - then girlfriend - Tipper had been the proto-

types for the tragic couple did the rounds of the gossip columns for days - with never a word of denial or clarification from the Vice-President or his PR team - until Segal turned up to set the record straight. Al was half of Oliver, he explained: the staid, pressurized, son-offamous-father half, not the creative, sensitive half. Tipper was nowhere.

These two tales, the tragic and quasi-comic, seem almost forgiveable beside other egoboosting deceptions of recent memory. Lawrence was disinterred only weeks after a federal judge in California, James Ware, withdrew his name as an appeals court nominee. He had been forced to admit that he was not the brother of a boy racist shooting. Although, he had told the tale for years, he had finally to concede that they were not related. Then there was Admiral Je-

remy Boorda, who committed suicide after being exposed by a journalist for wearing medals to which he was not entitled. And further back was the case of Janet Cooke, winner of America's most prestigious journalism prize, the Pulitzer, for a feature about child drug addicts that was pure invention. Her CV was fictitious, too. claiming a degree from the élite Vassar College.

Disparate though these cases seem, they have something in common beyond the boldness of the invention and the fact that they were found out. The perpetrators all wanted to improve themselves, and the establishment they aspired to wanted desperately to believe them, each compensating for his or her own inadequacy.

Larry Lawrence, perhaps over-cruelly exposed now as a self-made man of shallow vanity, gave himself a heroic past. The stolid Al Gore gave himself a trait of romantic spontaneity. Judge Ware, whose first error, like Gore's may have been to allow someone else's

mistaken assumption to stand. gave himself a civil rights history he did not have. The admiral awarded himself additional distinction. And Ms Cooke gave herself an élite degree, without which - as a former colleague of hers conceded

she would never have got a look-in at the Washington Post. But the Post (like the military, like the courts, like the political establishment) needed someone just like the personshe purported to be - in her case, a bright young black reporter. All of them gave these exaggerators the benefit of the

In fast-moving, success-orientated America, the temptation for ordinary but aspiring mortals to enhance their qualitications to fill in the perceived gaps is always there. The question now is how many more have crossed the line from enhancement to lies and got away with it - from those who understated their age and overstated their qualifications to enter the US in the first place, to those who pinned an extra medal on their breast?

The barest acquaintance with American CV-writing suggests that this is an art akin to advertising. Career resumes are designed to compete with

the brashest in the market. The rule is: "sell" vourself. Disappearing from one part of the country to "start" over with a new identity in another is an honourable American tradition; but this is not just "starting over". it is repackaging.

If there is a flaw in American selection procedures, it is the attention to packaging. If you look plausible, ooze confidence, speak briskly and to the point, that is taken as a measure of competence. Often, little more is required. "He's done too many talk shows' was a rare criticism of a well qualified academic whose answer to a searching question extended no further than a glib ound-byte.

Were CVs treated as advertising rather than history, all · might be well; but they are not. And while legions of "factcheckers" sift pre-publication articles and books for errors, the checking of career histories goes by the board. One call to Larry Lawrence's college would have rumbled his military claims; one check on Judge Ware's family, one call to Vassar College about Janet Cooke would have established the truth. But the truth is not something Americans are in hurry to

DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, MICHAEL HARRISON NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Stock Exchange imposes record £350,000 fine on JP Morgan for manipulating the FTSE 100

The Stock Exchange last JP Morgan yesterday an- acted with "the sole intention" night handed out a record £350,000 fine to the US investment bank JP Morgan, after two traders tried to

manipulate the market. To try to prevent further abuses, the Exchange is to intervene directly in New Year's Eve trading and has clarified its position on market manipulation. Lea Paterson reports.

nounced it had fired the two traders who attempted to drive down the level of the FTSE 100 towards the close of trade on Friday, 28 November.

The bank said in a statement: "JP Morgan has concluded its internal investigation into the matter and two individuals have been terminated in its London office." A spokesman declined to name the individuals involved.

The Stock Exchange yesterday imposed a record £350,000 fine on the US bank after concluding its traders had

of moving the FTSE 100, in breach of Exchange rules.

The last time the Exchange fined a member firm was in an Irish stockbroker, was fined Ir£150,000 (£133,000).

The Stock Exchange said last night its investigation into the matter was now closed.

At the beginning of this month, the Exchange announced it was to look into unusual trading patterns at the end of November. In the closing moments of trade on 28 November,

not need a deal to improve the

business. It plans to double the

number of Asda hypermarkets

years while other stores will be

Asda reported a 19 per cent

increase in first-half pre-

have increased by almost 9 per

cent, well ahead of all its super-

share has increased from 10.6

per cent to 11.7 per cent. This

is now well ahead of Safe-

way's share, which it reported

showed that Safeway was

beginning to lose touch with

Tesco, Sainsbury and Asda. "I

think that in a few years' time

we will be talking about the big

three rather than the big four,

whether Safeway gets taken

over or not," one analyst said.

Asda shares closed 7.5p higher

Analysts said the figures

last month as 7.8 per cent.

market rivals, and its market

Asda's same store sales

exceptional profits to £190m.

The comments came as

from 15 to 30 over the next two

falls in the shares of Glazo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham. the pharmaceutical giants.

The two JP Morgan traders March 1994, when J&E Davy, are thought to have taken advantage of late afternoon illiquidity in Sets, the Stock Exchange's new order-driven trading system, to drive down the level of the FTSE 100. The traders are understood to have been hedging an over the counter options contract.

In a separate development aimed at solving the problem of rogue closing prices on New Year's Eve, the Stock Exchange

announced yesterday it would not allow share prices to be determined solely by the forces of demand and supply on 31 December, Instead, Exchange statisticians will analyse closing prices for each FTSE 100 stock and will disregard prices they

deem "exceptional". Under Sets, traders type into an electronic order book the number and the price of shares they wish to sell (or buy). The orders then remain on the book until they are matched with an equivalent buy (or sell) order, at which point the trade is executed.

Late in the afternoon. traders tend to remove nonexecuted orders from the book to avoid being caught out by overnight developments in the US and in the Far East. This means that prices on the order book at this time can be unrepresentative of the day's trade. As the last trade executed gives a share's closing level, trades executed in the late afternoon can give rise to so-

called "rogue" prices.
To try to solve this problem on New Year's Eve, a day when closing prices are used for fund valuations, the Exchange has

calculated the average volatility of each FTSE 100 stock on a normal's day trade. On 31 December, the Exchange will take the price given by the last trade in each stock, and compare it with that stock's average volatility. A price deemed to be out of line with normal trading prices will be disregarded for the purposes of calculating closing values.

Closing prices, both for shares and the FTSE 100, will be calculated from the last trading price that satisfies the "normality" test imposed by the statisticians.

Outlook, page 21

Fears for **UK** jobs as Kodak takes axe to 16,000

Kodak, the US photographic giant, yesterday stunned its workforce by announcing plans to cut another 6,600 jobs, on top of 10,000 already announced last month, in a \$1.5bn (£915m) restructuring drive. The news from the group.

which is the world's largest producer of photographic film with 40 per cent of the market, raised the prospect of further jobs losses from its 5,000 strong British workforce. A US spokesman said most countries would be hit. "It would be fair to say the impact of this will be felt everywhere," he said, though there were no details of the regional breakdown.

Last month Kodak said it would cut 10,000 jobs world wide, to save \$1bn, in the face of tough competition from Japanese rival Fuji. But yesterday the company revealed that the programme would see 16,600 job losses by 1999 out of a global workforce of 100,500.

Kodak employs about 1,000 people at its base in Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire and 2,000 in Harrow, northwest London, where the group makes colour photographic paper. A further 600 staff are based at Annesley in Nottinghamshire and Kirby on Merseyside. The group's British operations made sales of £1.3bn last year and profits of £131m.

Previous restructurings have already taken their toll on Kodak's UK operations, where staff numbers have fallen from 8,400 to 5,000 since 1992. Part of the drop came when Kodak sold its UK photocopier business, employing 1,200 staff, to Danka. The global reductions are on top of 2,500 job cuts still to come from a previous restructuring package announced late last year and another 800 revealed earlier this year. Kodak said it would take a \$1.5bg restructuring charge to sidy is not actively looking for fund the latest programme, new opportunities. "I don't go half of which would cover redundancy payments.

Kodak's problems intensified this summer when Fuji slashed the US price of colour camera film by 20-30 per cent for some retail chains, in a concerted attack on the domestic market of its arch rival. Meanwhile, the US group has been preoccupied with new forms of digital photographic technology.

Last night Kodak shares. which had almost halved this year on the setbacks, rose by 5 per cent on Wall Street as analysts predicted a quicker improvement in profitability. - Chris Godsmark

International Oliver Group

Asda rules out hostile bid for Safeway as sales soar

Asda ruled out a hostile bid for Safeway yesterday as it posted soaring profits and rising market share. But as Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports, Asda has not dismissed the possibility of an agreed £9bn merger.

Asda's chief executive, Allan Leighton, moved to quell recent speculation that Asda might make a hostile move for Safeway after merger discussions between the two rivals collapsed in September. He said the regulatory difficulties that had scuppered the deal in the first place still remained. "And, anyway, hostile bids are not our style."

It is thought that the supermarket group, chaired by Archie Norman, is growing so fast that it may not need the

STOCK MARKETS

INTEREST RATES

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

1.6715

Price (p) (2bg (pi)

CURRENCIES

2.9526 +2.59pf

213.80 +¥3.76

OTHER INDICATORS

288.85 0.60

www.bloomberg.com

6.01 <u>0.16</u>

\$/£

FTSE 100

Indices

deal. According to observers, Asda feels a hostile bid would be more likely to fall foul of the competition authorities than a

The company is unwilling to risk the months of uncertainty that an investigation would

Mr Leighton was speaking after Asda's chairman, Archie Norman, had also poured cold water on the fevered bid

"A lot of the speculation has been fanciful, to say the least. Nothing has changed since September and apart from the occasional encounter at the odd Christmas party we have had no contact with Safeway whatsoever." But he added: "I'm not ruling anything out for an eternity. I'm a businessman."

He said Asda was not averse to acquisitions and had looked at buying the Welcome Break service stations earlier this

But he said the company did

0.6013 -0.40p

128.55 +Y1.41

+0.30

source: Bloomberg

2.5978 D-Mark 1.7752 +0.37pt

107.90

23.87 GDP 113.90 3.80 109.73 Jan

369.75 RPI 159.60 3.70 153.91

BSkyB suffers another

BSkyB has suffered another senior defection, in the same week that four cable operators put the final seal on a pay-perview service to rival the satellite

defection

broadcaster's. Bruce Dunlop, director of promotions and creative services, left the company earlier this week, it emerged last night. His departure coincided with the announcement from a consortium of cable companies that they have formed their own pay-perview outfit, called Front Row.

The service, which is backed by Telewest Communications, NTL, Diamond Cable and General Cable, will offer "movieson-demand" to cable customers with films from Warner Brothers and Columbia Tristar. It is being hailed by the cable industry as the first successful challenge to BSkyB's strangle-

hold on programming rights. However, some critics said yesterday that Front Row, which plans to launch in February, had been enfeebled by the withdrawal of the largest UK cable company, Cable & Wireless Communications, from the consortium. C&WC will be taking BSkyB's pay-per-

Mr Dunlop said he had left BSkyB after "we both decided Elisabeth Murdoch [BSkyB's general manager of broadcasting] wanted to do things differently." He was responsible for building BSkyB's brand, and took charge of the company's

successful sports promotions. Mr Dunlop's exit follows the resignation of Sam Chisholm, formerly chief executive and managing director, and his deputy, David Chance. Mr Chisholm, who poached Mr Dunlop from Australia's Channel Nine, stepped down due to ill-health. However, his departure has sparked a series of senior management changes, which have knocked the share-price. - Cathy Newman

Cassidy quits on second profit warning

Denis Cassidy, who was ousted as chairman of Liberty last week, yesterday announced that he would resign as chairman of Ferguson International after the label manufacturer issued its second profit warning in six months.

The news rounds off a dreadful year for Mr Cassidy, during which all three companies he chairs have been in trouble. He lost his job at Liberty when a group of disgruntled shareholders called an extraordinary general meeting and voted him out. Meanwhile, shares in Oliver, the shoe retailer where Mr Cassidy has been chairman since 1992, have fallen by a third this year as the company has

struggled with sluggish high street sales. Ferguson has also proved problematic. In July, chief executive David Watson resigned after less than a year in the job when the company said interim profits would fall below expectations.

Mr Cassidy said his decision to retire from Ferguson had nothing to do with the Liberty saga. "I'm a part-time chairman. I've had enough time to devote to Ferguson," he said, adding: "The chairman doesn't go around selling the labels. He manages the board."

Stephen Gutteridge, chief executive of Ferguson, said Mr Cassidy had been planning to stand down for some time.

"Denis and I get on extremely well." He blamed the profit warning on a slowdown in the market and a lack of concern for customer care. He said the company had already unnounced 150 redundancies, and more would follow. Shares in Ferguson dropped 36p to 94p.

Mr Cassidy is unrepentant. "If you make a career out of becoming chairman of companies in some difficulty it would be surprising if everything ran like clockwork," he said. Nevertheless, recent experiences had not been pleasant. "The last three months has not been the most

attractive period of my life." Despite losing two directorships in two weeks, Mr Casout and sell my services, people come and ask me," he said. Despite the upheavals of the past year, he did not feel his reputation had suffered.

Mr Cassidy has held numerous directorships. He was formerly on the board of Boddington's, the brewing group, and helped bring carpet retailer Kingsbury to the market in 1995 before standing down last year. When taking on a position at a company, he aims to stay for about five years, "Hopefully you go in and try to create an established board and then have a seamless transition."

- Peter Thal Larsen

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Signs of economic slowdown increase

Mortgage lending dipped last month, and growth of the broad money supply - a Bank of England bugbear slowed. Despite these fresh signs that the economy is cooling off, the financial markets still expect interest

rates to rise again.

Editor, reports.

Diane Coyle, Economics

view operation, Sky Box Office. The building societies and high street banks made new loans

with £1.8bn in October. Both groups of lenders said the housing market recovery seemed to be cooling down.

Abbey National, which predicted that house prices would rise by just 5 per cent next year after a rise of about 9 per cent this year. The Council of Mortgage Lenders separately forecast a 5-6 per cent rise in 1998. Andrew Pople, retail man-

aging director of Abbey National, said: "Over the past few supply measure, slowed to 10.5 months signs have been emerging that the pace of the recoverv is slowing." This was mainly its last Inflation Report that due to the five interest rate rises broad money growth would since May, he said. The growth have to slow to keep inflation amounting to £1.5bn to home- in both prices and the number on target. While it is probably buyers last month, compared of home purchases would slow. still too high for comfort, it has

last month was buoyant, according to the British Bankers' Association. New loans This view was fleshed out by amounted to £526m, £10m lower than in October but well above average.

However, other figures confirmed the general picture of a gradual slowdown in the pace at which the economy is expanding. The Bank of England reported that year-on-year growth in M4, the broad money per cent in November,

The Bank of England said in

Other lending to consumers—slowed from a peak of 11.9 per—in the industry's overseas sales cent in July. The detail of the figures

showed a sharp rise of £7.2bn in total lending by banks and building societies, but more than 13hn of the increase was due to transactions in the gilts repo market. The underlying increase in lending of around £4hn was similar to recent months. Lending to industry was relatively subdued.

Separately, the Office for National Statistics said the turnover of the engineering in- one more time in the early dustry had risen by 0.7 per cent in the three months to October, taking it to a level 4.2 per cent higher than the same period a vear earlier.

during the three-month period, while sales in the home market were flat, confirming other signs that exports have so far held up despite the strong pound. The evidence that growth is subsiding is coming from the consumer sector rather than the export industries, which were thought to be the most vulnerable.

Slowdown or not, the financial markets concluded yesterday that the Bank of England will raise interest rates at least months of next year. Along with a strong hint from the Bundesbank that German rates will not rise, this took the pound nearly two pfennigs higher to There was a 1.5 per cent rise just over DM2.95 yesterday.

FSA plans super-complaints scheme

○**ૹ**DG●

The Financial Services Authority (FSA), the new, all-embracing City regulator, vesterday announced plans for a single supercomplaints system for aggricved investors, replacing eight different schemes now in place.

The single complaints system

will be coupled with a one-stop

building societies, insurance sations, companies, investment firms and financial advisers.

ing forward to responses to the FSA's proposals before 18 Services Ombudsman who February from both consumers would have the power to incompensation scheme, sup- and the financial industry. No vestigate firms and force them planting separate redress sys- date is being given for the to respond to a complaint.

tems now operated by banks, formation of both new organi-

The FSA's plans would involve scrapping various Howard Davies, chairman of schemes, some of them purely the FSA, said that he was look-voluntary. They would be subsumed into a single Financial

Renault Laguna Prize Draw promotion will cease. The December Winners will be notified

اعتثاب الاجل

NETWORK+ BANK OF SCOTLAND **BANKING** With effect from the 1st January 1998, the Www.ind in January, 1998.

Fears for UK jobs as Kodak takes axe to 16,001



OUTLOOK ON ORDER-DRIVEN TRADING, SUPERMARKET MERGERS, AND THE SUCCESSION AT NATWEST

New Year fix is no long-term solution for Sets

21/BUSINESS

Question: When is a market not a market? Answer: When it is New Year's Eve in London. The Stock Exchange has decided that its new order-driven trading system is just not up to the job of setting closing share prices for the year now that market practitioners have learnt how to abuse the technology. We can be reasonably certain that the boys around at JP Morgan have learnt their lesson - a £350,000 fine generally helps drive the point home.

But the Exchange is still leaving nothing to chance. For one day at least, it has decided to abandon the simple tradition of allowing prices to be set by the number of buyers and sellers in the market and has called in the boffins instead.

Year-end share prices matter to many more people than just chartists since they are widely used by fund managers for acturial valuation purposes. Unfortunately Sets is in the habit of throwing up completely unrepresentative closing prices for Footsie stocks, which then distort the index and play havoc with everyone's pensions. Sometimes the distortion is deliberate as in the well-documented J P Morgan case - but more often it is a simple, unintended by-product of the system. The Exchange has therefore decided that 31 December is just too important a day to rely on its expensive new piece of kit.

Ordinarily, the closing price of each stock is the price at which the last trade went through. On New Year's Eve, that will change. Over to the rule amendment notice issued by the Exchange last night

for a simple explanation of what will happen if a closing price appears to be out of line: "Where that trade price has moved by an exceptional amount compared to three specific (but unpublished) price points in the previous hour, the official closing price will move to that of the previous automatically executed order. The same test referred to above will be applied to that previous automatically executed order until a trade within the defined range is reached. A trade price will be judged to be exceptional if the price movement is above the 99.5 per cent confidence level for the recent historic distribution of price changes over the

Got all that? Good. Shorn of Exchangese, what the notice means is that a proper market will not be in operation at all on New Year's Eve. Prices will not necessarily be set by what has taken place in the dealing rooms but by a statistician calculating what it ought to have happened based on "recent historic distribution".

equivalent time period."

The Exchange's member firms have . closed ranks and agreed to the rule amendment. However, they are not the ones being hurt most by Sets, partly because two thirds of all trades continue to be executed outside the order book. It is the unwitting private investor who has suffered most through the practice of executing trades at "at best" prices.

The Exchange can fix prices for one day but it cannot do it in perpetuity since the stock market, like all markets, is driven

more by fear, greed and emotion than by statistical probabilities. The recent abuse of Sets merely reinforces the point. The onger-term solution being mooted by the Exchange is to fix closing prices by suspending trading each night for a brief period and conducting auctions.

Meanwhile, the Exchange continues to insist cheerfully that there is nothing wrong with the system itself, merely the way it is being used (and abused). Too much money and too many reputations have probably been invested in Sets for it to be abandoned. But there remains a long way to go before it becomes an aid, not an impediment, to a truly even market.

Has Archie still got the urge to merge?

So is that the end of the putative Asda-Safeway supermarket link-up? The shortterm possibilities certainly looked more remote after yesterday's update from Asda. Allan Leighton was definite that hostile bids are not the company's style. With a merger also apparently on the backburner it looks like the supermarket industry's consolidation - if that's what we're seeing - may have to wait a while.

Of course Asda's management was careful to wheel out the "never say never" line. Nothing that was said yesterday precludes a renewed attempt at an agreed

Interestingly, Asda seems to feel that an agreed bid would stand more chance looks desperately short of ideas and

of getting through the competition authorities than a hostile offer. Logically, the reverse ought to be the case. A cosy gettogether to create a third force in UK supermarkets that would almost equal Tesco and Sainsbury in size would diminish competition and ultimately inflict higher prices on consumers. Why should the Office of Fair Trading and Margaret Beckett be persuaded otherwise simply be-

cause Asda and Safeway both said so? What is becoming increasingly clear is that Asda may not need a merger with Safeway to close the gap with Tesco and Sainsbury. Asda's sales growth is the fastest in the industry and its market share is now significantly higher than Safeway. Earlier this year these two companies were almost the same size. Now Asda is worth more than £5bn and growing. Safeway is worth £3.5bn and shrinking.

It is possible to dismiss Safeway's recent ills as little more than the normal swings of the supermarket industry's pendulum of fortune. A year ago the whipping boy of the sector was Sainsbury as it lost market share to Tesco and failed to match its rival on innovative marketing wheezes. Perhaps it is just Safeway's turn? But there are key differences. Sainsbury's is a historically sound business that just had a couple of bad years. Safeway is an ordinary one that had a good spell and has now reverted to type. Meanwhile, Tesco and Asda have both put in a five-year winning

streak which looks like continuing. Safeway is hardly a basket case but it Asda, meanwhile, has developed a successful formula of trading in larger stores, with wider ranges and at prices that are 5-10 per cent lower than rivals. And yet why does Asda still find it so hard to dispel the idea that a merger may be around the corner?

Shock, horror. Alexander to stay

In search of some light entertainment this Christmas? Then why not ring up the corporate affairs department at Nat West and ask when Lord Alexander is quitting as chairman. Better still, ask if he is being forced out by disgruntled institutions.

The abridged version of the answer runs as follows: "That is totally incorrect, complete guff, absolute fiction. We are at a total loss to know where this idea comes from. To say that institutional investors have made Lord A quit is utter rubbish. No discussions of that nature have taken place and nothing has been decided much less agreed. This is just not an issue. Nothing along these lines has been discussed. Furthermore, we are not recruiting non-executive directors to take over from Lord A. No discussions about his retirement or the succession have been held. no decisions have been made and there has been no pressure from institutions. As far as we are concerned he is still very much our chairman."

So it's all true then?

Oil industry warns of 40,000 job losses

The big oil corporations have put 34 large North Sea exploration projects on hold because of the uncertainty over the Government's review of the offshore tax regime, the industry has warned inisters. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on new claims up to 40,000 jobs could go if Labour hits the oil giants with a

second windfall tax.

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The latest evidence submitted to the Treasury will increase the pressure on Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, not to use North Sea oil producers such as British Petroleum and Shell as a cash cow to raise billions of pounds of extra tax revenues.

The figures compiled by the Offshore Operators Association (UKOOA) show that 34 of the 143 investment projects planned by the big oil groups have been deferred until the outcome of the tax review. According to the companies' estimates, up to 105 projects could be abandoned because a rise in taxes would make them uneconomic.

The projects listed, though commercially confidential, are worth at least £100m. UKOOA's submission shows that £10bn of investment could be lost over five years, leading to 30,000 to 40,000 job losses. The industry employs 30,000 offshore workers, with up to 400,000 direct and indirect jobs based onshore.

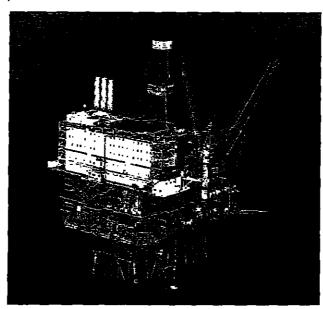
The Chancellor launched the review in last July's Budget, telling MPs it would "ensure that an appropriate share of North Sea profits" were taxed, without damaging investment.

Profits from the big oil groups soared last year as the

much as \$25 a barrel. Though oil prices bave fallen in recent months, the industry fears the government could raise £5bn in a one-off levy similar to the windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

Treasury officials are expected to give ministers a list of policy options before Christmas, though the outcome will not be revealed until the March Budget.

The current regime, dating from 1993, cut petroleum revenue tax (PRT) from 75 per cent to 50 per cent, but abolished tax breaks on exploration projects. The industry paid £1.7bn in PRT in 1996/97, with a further £1.2bn price of Brent Crude rose to as in corporation taxes.



Offshore tax: 105 North Sea projects may be abandoned

Cold snap sends gas prices soaring to £5 per therm

The pre-Christmas cold snap this week brought the winter's first warnings over fuel supplies, it has emerged, as the standby price of spotted the potential for gas soared by more than 40 times on the wholesale market.

day as domestic customers woke turned up their central heating. The price of gas on the so-called a safety net to suppliers which failed to secure enough gas in the lowest price during December of just 12p a therm.

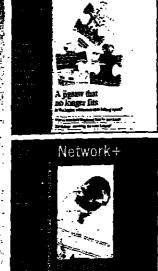
Transco, which runs the pipeline network and manages the flexibility market, said it had demand to outstrip supply early in the day. "We were buying in The surge came on Wednes- gas to cover that eventuality and we sent a warning out to shipup to blizzard conditions and pers that it could be expensive," said a spokesman.

It was unclear whether any flexibility market, which acts as suppliers had been forced to buy gas at this price, which could have left them nursing heavy advance to match demand, losses. The flexibility price went up to £5. It compares with slipped back as the weather eased, but still averaged £1.57 during the day.



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The Bank of Japan plunged into the foreign exchange market Yesterday to sell dollars in support of the yen for the first time in five years. Stephen Vines examines the latest attempt to bring stability to the region while Diane Coyle looks ahead to a report that is expected to cut world growth forecasts.

Allied renews

with US rival

Allied Colloids, the chemicals group on the end of a £1.1bn hos-

tile bid from Hercules, launched another attack on its US rival

yesterday as the war of words be-

tween the two sides escalated.

criticisms of its performance as misleading and spurious. It also

said the number of acceptances

that Hercules had received, currently 0.94 per cent of

Allied's shares, was minimal.

David Farrar, Allied's chief executive, said: "Hercules has had

to grasp at straws and has had to

use thoroughly misleading argu-

ments. Shareholders should re-

group was determined to remain

independent and that is was not

looking at the moment for a

"white knight" to protect itself

from Hercules. A spokesman for Hercules retorted: "Today's

statement has barely addressed the serious questions and con-

cerns we have raised. Once again

Allied Colloids has not added any

was considering raising its offer

to provide a knock-out blow.

However, the group is unlike-

ly to raise its bid before Allied

produces its final defence

that the acquisition of CPS, a

US chemicals group, would

dilute earnings and that it was

massaging profits at its core

business by transferring sales

from CPS. Allied is visiting its

large institutional shareholders

in an attempt to get them to

Allied's shares remained

- Andrew Yates

hold on to their holdings.

unchanged at 165p.

Allied dismissed suggestions

document on 4 January.

Sources suggested Hercules

substance to the debate."

Mr Farrar added that the

ject its rhetoric and its offer."

Allied branded Hercules

hostilities

The Bank of Japan's move, yet to be officially confirmed, indicates that the Japanese govemment is determined to play a role in stopping the Asian curheavy toll elsewhere in the region and could have acceleratin value to make local goods totalling an astonishing \$4bn. more competitive.

prove to be more effective than the massive income tax cuts announced on Tuesday. These der this year. have been judged an inadequate response to the gravity of Japan's economic problems.

flected in the Japanese stock market yesterday, with the blue chip Nikkei-225 index dropping by more than 2 per cent. rency slide which has taken a Market sentiment was also depressed by news of the fourth largest post-war bankruptcy ed if it was felt that Japan taking down the foodstuff would allow the yen to decline trader Toshuku with debts

The company blamed the Support for the yen may bursting of the "bubble" economy for its woes. Toshuku is the ninth listed company to go un-

Meanwhile the long-running scandal of leading stockbrokers' involvement with South Korea went to the polls.

This disappointment was reterday with news that Daiwa Setwo of Japan's biggest stockrupt shareholder meetings if they were not paid off.

The Ministry of Finance ordered Daiwa to cease its own account business in stock, futures and options trading for four months, while Nikko received a three-month han.

Elsewhere calm descended across the globe on Thursday, as

But worries over the financial stability of South-east Asian curcurities and Nikko Securities. rencies moved to Indonesia after Fitch IBCA, the international brokers, were to be severely trating agency, said its credit ratpunished for paying off racke- ings might be cut to below inteers who had threatened to dis-vestment grade because of political uncertainty, IBCA also downgraded the individual

> The continuing Asian turmoil is expected to have led the International Monetary Fund to cut its forecasts for world growth next year.

ratings of 10 Thai banks.

Meanwhile, it has speeded on emerging-market currencies up its procedures for lending money to countries suffering "exceptional" difficulties.

Only two months after it published its latest forecasts for the world economy, the IMF has said it will update its predictions. The fund has made it clear that the document, to be released on Sunday afternoon, will trim its growth forecast.

In October, the fund's economists put world growth in 1998 at 4.3 per cent, a fraction higher than this year's likely figure. It foresaw a slowdown in the US, UK and Japan, but its prediction of 2.6 per cent Japanese GDP growth now looks very optimistic. So does its 7.4 per cent figure for likely Asian growth.

Esprit Telecom raises \$300m to fund European expansion

Esprit Telecom, the Reading-based phones company, yesterday raised \$300m (£180m) through a bond issue to fund its expansion into the European business market. The cash will mostly be spent over the next two years to build networks linking financial centres in London, Paris and Amsterdam. It will enable Esprit, which has 4,400 customers in 16 countries. to reduce its dependence on buying capacity from other phone groups. David Oertle, chief executive, said Esprit would open more UK offices and was planning to use some of the funds for acquisitions. Esprit is quoted on Nasdaq and Easdaq in

Country Casuals talks again

Country Casuals, the women's clothing retailer which has been the subject of numerous takeover discussions in the last few years, yesterday said it was in more talks that may or may not lead to an offer for the company. The shares rose by one-third to 122.5p on the news, which came just four months after the company said it has ceased talks with potential bidders. The company is now valued at £22m. Two of the group's former chief executives, Mark Bunce and John Shannon have previously made bids or been involved in takeover talks for the group. However, it is understood that neither is involved this time. Other potential bidders could include Alexon, the women's fashion chain which expressed an interest in Country Casuals earlier this year. However, it may have its hands full, with the recent acquisition of the Dolcis footwear chain from Sears.

Triplex Lloyd agrees offer

Triplex Lloyd, the specialist castings group that earlier this year lost out in the battle to take over William Cook, has agreed an offer by Doncasters. Doncasters is paying 280p for each Triplex Lloyd share, equivalent to a total of about £194m, which represent a 22 per cent premium to the company's shares on 1 December. Doncasters makes highly engineered components for tolerance-critical applications, primarily in the aerospace and industrial gas and steam turbine industries. Triplex Lloyd serves the power, automotive and engineering markets world-wide.

Buyer for Hambros arm

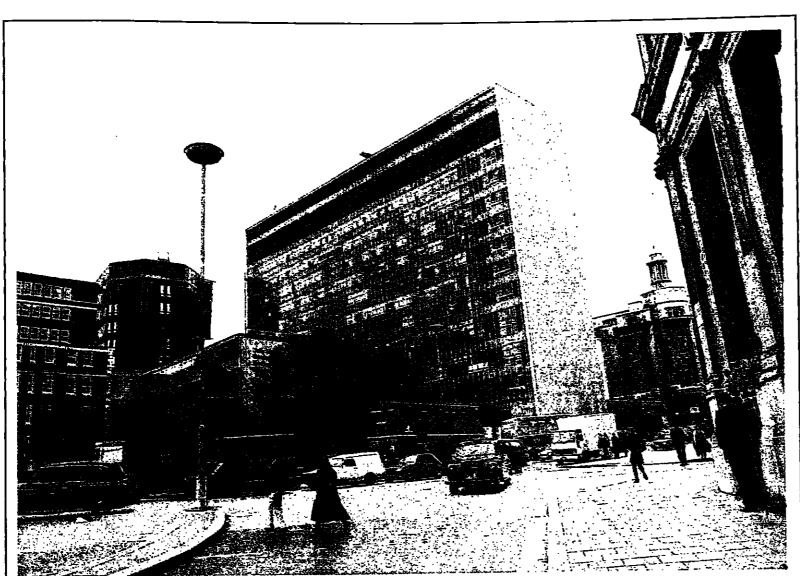
Hambros, one of the few remaining independent British merchant banks, officially confirmed that Générale de Banque, a Belgian bank, is to buy Hambros' corporate banking division. Terms of the deal, part of the Hambros break-up, were not disclosed, though sources said Générale paid less than 2 billion Belgian francs (£33m). Talks on the sale of other parts of Hambros, in particular its core corporate finance division, are thought to be at an advanced stage. Hambros' corporate banking division has around 400 customers, mostly small and medium-sized companies, and employs just under 40 staff.

Exchange's governance code

The Stock Exchange is to take charge of the Hampel committee's "super code" on corporate governance. The new code is expected to be detailed in the Stock Exchange's listing rules. although companies will not be obliged to follow it. Rather, as is currently the case with the Cadbury code, companies will have to state in their annual reports whether they have complied with the new code. The code is expected to be detailed in the listing rules from the summer, following a period of

Tietmeyer signals ECB aim

Hans Tietmeyer, president of Germany's Bundesbank, said yesterday he expected the European Central Bank (ECB) to adopt a money supply target as its method for controlling inflation once the single currency is under way. Although the choice between German-style monetary targeting and Britishstyle inflation targeting will be made formally by the ECB once it is up and running, the preference of its most influential member for monetary targets suggests that Britain might have to adopt them, too, when and if it joins.



Months of speculation over the new home for the 5,000 UK staff at Andersen Consulting, the specialist technology consultancy, is set to come to an end in a move that will also decide the future of one of the newspaper industry's most famous sites. The UK arm of Andersen Consulting is believed to be close to signing a deal to move to the former Mirror Group headquarters (above) in

Holborn Circus, central London. The organisation earlier this week called in an arbitrator to resolve its long-running dispute with sister organisation Arthur Andersen. It is currently based alongside Arthur Andersen in offices off The Strand, although entrances in different streets.

The Holborn building was on a shortlist that also included Canary Wharf in London's

Docklands. A deal could by finalised early in the new year. The search, which has continued for several months, has been made difficult by the fastgrowing operation's combined needs for about 300,000 square feet of space and easy access to

Matters have been further complicated by the partners' known preference for a prestigious address rather than the anonymous collection of floors typically available in Docklands.

The move also ends lengthy speculation about the future of the old Mirror building, which has remained empty since the departure in the early 1990s of the media group, which owns a big stake in Newspaper Publishing, publisher of the

– Roger Trapp

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Watmoughs defence against bidder 'backward looking'

Canada yesterday said the defence by its UK rival Watmoughs Holdings against its bid reveals a company that continues to look backwards in an industry that is changing rapidly".

Watmoughs' defence document stated that its problems were behind it and that it is well placed to generate increasing value for shareholders if it can beat off Quebecor's hostile £188m bid.

However, Quehecor said this document contained "little more than a gloss on Watmoughs' interim statement strategy. The stock market reacted negatively [the Watmoughs ordinary share price fell nearly 9 per cent on the day of announcement] and QPI questions what reassurance this same old strategy offers Watmoughs shareholders".

It said Watmoughs "fails to address the realities of today's competitive printing market; does not print a single top ten UK weekly consumer magazine title [while European competi- at Watmoughs' expense," tors already print three such

Quebecor Printing Inc (QPI) of titles] and recently lost the Mail on Sunday's television guide contract due to intense pricing

"Watmoughs' strategy of focusing on long run time sensitive and repeat business is no guarantee of future growth. It fails to address the reality of today's printing market in which larger and better invested printers, both in the UK and on the Continent, are competing and will continue to compete for the same business," the company said.

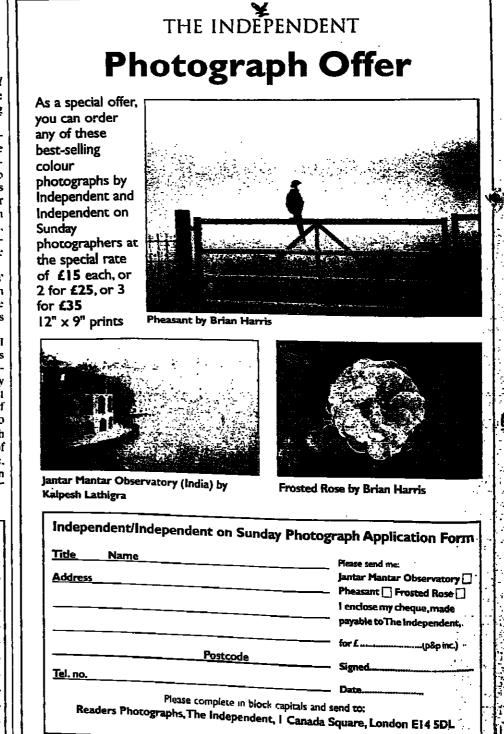
Quebecor said Watmoughs' vulnerability to competition was also highlighted by "the strong performance of QPI's UK operations".

Through Hunterprint, QPI has successfully expanded its presence in newspaper supplements from approximately 10.7 billion tabloid equivalent pages per annum at the time of Hunterprint's acquisition to approximately 27.8 billion such pages today, an increase of 160 per cent. Of this increase. 29 per cent epresents a net gain Quebecor said.

COMPANY RESULTS Turnover & Pre-tax & 3.91bn (3.45bn) 190 0m (232 4m) 4.86p (6.57p) 0.91p (0.81p) DC Cook Holdings (1) 106.5m (100.5m) 1.852m (2.217m) 2.95p (3.45p) 0.84p Crest Packaging (I) 13 50m (14 56m) 1 824m (2 162m) 3 5p (4 0p) 1 38p (1 38p) Fine Art Developments (I)74.39m (76 85m) -12 44m (-5 17m) -14 7p (-4 33p) 3 9p (3 7p) tertstone (N 68 25m (77 53m) -34 5m (-2.1m) -10.9p (-0.8p) 0.16p (0.16p) London Merchant Sec (I) - (-) 68 99m (15 12m) 28.29p (4.05p) (0.8p) (homas Potts (I) 2.35m (1.34m) 0 014m (0 340m) 0 005p (0 13p) 0 05p (0.05p) lenes Stroud (1) 41.56m (41.09m) 3.51m (2.85m) 14.2p (10.7p) 5.5p (5.25p) 58.31m (53 03m) 6 15m (6 55m) 14.09p (15 3p) 10 5p (10 5p) UCO Holdings (F) 409 9m (344.6m) 8.42m (7.86m) 10.4p (10.7p) 2.8p (2.6p) Rey Vardy (1) 40 37m (23.12m) 12.25m (10.1m) 19 15p (15.9p) 12.9p (12.2p)

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23/SHARES

Downgrades take a heavy toll among high flying stocks

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Pearson, the banking to publishing group being reshaped for the next millennium by American Marjorie Scardino, was under pressure as investment house Merrill Lynch lowered its profit estimates.

The Financial Times group weakened on Wednesday after it had warned growth was slowing and Salomon Smith Barney cut its expectations. The US investment house reduced its forecast by 9 per cent to £320m. Last year Pearson produced £356.8m.

It was not clear by just how much Merrill trimmed its expectations. It did, however, say it continued to rate the shares a buy. Pearson, riding high near its 849p peak, took the latest downgrading badly. falling 34p to 790p.

Another under the weather on a profit revision was Marks Henderson Crosthwaite lifted its & Spencer, doyen of high profit forecast, from £180m to

street retailers. On Wednesday Société Générale Strauss Turnbull trimmed its profit forecast a mere £20m to £1.14bn. The reduction struck a nerve. With retailers ruffled by the unseasonably slow Christmas sales build up, M&S softened a further 26p to 574p, a 46p fall since the

The rest of the stock market tended to drift lower, although trading was often brisk with turnover topping 1 billion shares. There was no evidence of any particularly large trades. Footsie failed to hold an early gain, ending 22.5 points lower at 5,168.3; today's futures expiry created a little unease.

the shares touched 664.5p.

Hays, the business support £180m. group, gained 23p to 838p as NatWest Securities said buy:

£187m, but reduced its recommendation from buy to hold. Kingfisher, a Henderson buy, moved in the right direc-

tion, up 10p to 855p. Analytical comments provided some action. SocGen put a target of 450p on the IMI engineering group and SBC Warburg said buy; it was enough SocGen caution. In the autumn to lift the shares 12.5p to 408.5p.

GRE, however, had to contend with mixed reviews. The insurer topped the Footsie leader board with a 16.75p advance to 340.75p. Trading was brisk. SocGen said sell; Dresdner Kleinwort Benson suggested buy. Warburg, lifting the shares from sell to hold, cut its profit forecast from £205m to

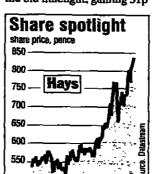
Asda's interim profit advance pushed the price 7.5p to 178p; its alleged hid target, Safeway, put on 7.5p to 336.5p.

At Bloomberg we don't just

make history every day.

Diageo's spirited début was to 122.5p as a mystery bidder eroded as the spirit giant fell appeared. 10.5p to 580.5p. Scottish & Newcastle remained in form,

up 27p to 785p. Engineer Triplex Lloyd rose 10p to 272.5p as a US quoted group, Doncasters, unveiled a £194m offer; 280p share. Fashion chain Country Casuals returned to the bid limelight, gaining 31p



Shield Diagnostic tumbled 67.5p to 705p following an unexpected delay over the signing of its first commercialisation deal and the continuing failure of Abbott, the US group, to buy into the company. Biocompatibles International was again in the sickbay over its unfulfilled US ambitions, falling 65p to 490p; the shares were 1,420p in the spring. On Ofex BioFocus, a medicinal chemistry company, gained 13p to 50.5p on a tie up with ViroPharma, a US group. group, jumped 41.5p to 251.5p. First-half profits are ex-Entrepreneurial investor

per cent. TransTec, the engineer linked to the Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson, slumped 19p to 67.5p, lowest for three years. Conglomerate

Trevor Davies has lifted his

BioFocus stake to nearly 19

Azlan, the troubled computer group, held at 47.5p. There is

action, possibly disposals.

91.5p with suggestions of a bid,

maybe a management buy-out.

pected to emerge at £800,000,

despite office start-up costs. In

the same period last year the

company managed £220,000

with the full year producing

£813,000. The shares were

Abacus, a recruitment

talk of bid action with, TT fell 3p to 280p, a 12 month possibly, Sherwood Interlow, and paper group Fergunational, nursing predatory son International reacted to a instincts. Azlan has had a new profits alert with a 36p fall cruel run. At one time it was to 94p, worst for more than one of the market's computer stars, reaching 287p. But a Sketchley firmed to 43.5p. botched cash call, followed by Interim figures are due on Monday. There is talk they will

TAKING STOCK

accountancy problems and then a £24m rescue rights be accompanied by corporate issue has destroyed its appeal. In the year to April Chieftain, the insulation it lost £14.1m against a group which early this month £10.5m profit in the previous revealed trading was going exceedingly well, gained 9p to

> Internet Technology gained 6p to 61.5p after disclosing an indirect link with the giant IBM Corporation. Wave Systems, a joint venture partner, has reached an agreement which could lead to its inexpensive chips being used in PCs. Idea is to allow users to access digital content directly from their desktops.

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13.72m ASDA Grp | \$\frac{\text{Production}}{\text{subs}} \ | \frac{150}{150} \ \cdot \ | \frac{1}{50} \ \cdot \ 51/8.3 Down 02.5 15:00 Up 27.5 12:00

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source: Bloomberg

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Diageo looks set to succeed

The merger of Grand Metropolitan and Guinness to create the biggest drinks company in the world is set to revolutionise the industry and has sent competitors scurrying into huddles to talk about their own mergers. But now Diageo has finally been born should investors enter into the spirit of things and buy the shares?

Prompted by the pedestrian growth in the world's spirits markets, the deal is all about cutting costs. Diageo has already said it will chop £195m off overheads but the final figure promises to be much larger as the two groups get down to the nitty-gritty of restructuring the business.

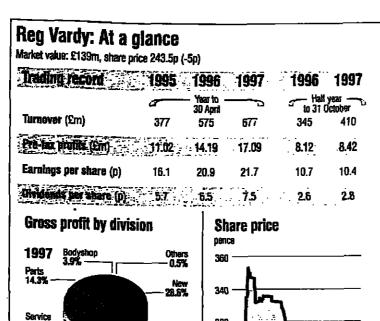
Critics point out that once the shake-up is finished Diageo will just be left with a bigger slice of a stagnant industry. However, after seven months spent negotiating the regulatory maze. the US and European competition authorities have let Diageo off lightly. The group has been allowed to keep the most powerful array of brands in the industry and an unrivalled distribution network, leaving it well placed to continue to pick up market share and gradually put up prices.

Elsewhere Diageo's growth prospects also look attractive. Pillsbury, the US food business, is benefiting from a buoyant local market, Guinness is growing strongly internationally and Burger King is still winning the burger war against McDonald's.

One dark cloud is the financial crisis in the Far East. The economic slowdown in Asia will hit spirits sales, which analysts reckon could wipe £70m off profits this year. That should be put in the context of a group expected to make annual profits of nearly £2bn a year with less than 10 per cent of business coming from the Far East.

Guinness and GrandMet shares rose by more than a £1 to top 600p when the merger was announced in May. However, turmoil in the Asian markets has seen the price drift downwards and Diageo shares opened at 591.5p and slipped another 9.5p yesterday to close at 580.5p.

profits of £1.8bn next year and £1.9bn



tive p/e ratio of 17, falling to 16 the year after. That rating is more than justified, given that Diageo should be able to keep earnings growing at more than 10 per cent a year and the prospect that its strong cash flow will allow more share

buy-backs. The shares look good value. Revamp takes

shine off Vardy

Reg Vardy's reputation as the darling of the motor dealers has lost its shine this year. In early 1997 its shares hit an all-time high of 352p after tripling in just four years. Then investors hit the brakes. In the past 10 months the shares have dropped by almost a third.

Vardy was sufficiently concerned to rush out its interim results three weeks until 1999. ahead of schedule. But the numbers, Merrill Lynch forecasts pre-tax which showed a 5 per cent increase in operating profits on a 17 per cent jump in 1999, putting the shares on a prospecin sales, did little to reassure the mar-

ket and the shares shed another 5p to

close at 243.5p. The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, which affected sales in the key month of September, knocked over £0.5m off profits. But Vardy says reorganising its dealer network is the main reason for the margin squeeze.

As one of the most successful dealers around, Vardy is in great demand with manufacturers as they seek to award larger franchises. Long term, this is good news. But in the short term it must absorb the cost of buying, relocating and refurbishing various dealerships.

In the six months to October, Vardy added five franchises to its network, taking the total to 51. The group expects to hit its target of 60 some time next year. It has also launched a contract hire business, which lost £240,000 in the period and will not break even

With gearing of just 7 per cent, the benefits will take several years to are on a lowly rating of 11 and look flow through, they should be worth the attractive.

wait. Williams de Broe, the stockbroker. has pencilled in a full-year profit forecast of 18.7m, placing the shares on a torward p/e ratio of 10.5. For most motor dealers, this would be fair. But given Vardy's superior track record the shares are worth a look.

Fine Art split looks promising

Fine Art Developments' decision to demerge its greetings card operation into the newly formed Creative Publishing in September has increased shareholder value a little, but both companies remain on huge discounts to their sectors.

Fine Art was hit by a profits warning last year due to problems in the Express Gifts division, and the poor sentiment appears to be lingering on. However, first half operating profits were £1.3m ahead to £3.1m and all three divisions - home shopping. educational supplies and charity catalogues - did well.

Overseas sales in the second half will be affected by strikes in France and Canada, as well as the strength of sterling. Nevertheless analysts have left full year forecasts unchanged. Though the company says it is looking for acquisitions. Fine Art may well find itself on

the receiving end of a bid itself. On full year forecasts of £21.5m, the shares, which rose op to 169.5p yesterday, trade on a forward p/e of 10. It would make a good fit with a larger mail order group such as N Brown or Otto Versand, who could push the product

through their larger databases. At Creative Publishing, which is Europe's largest greetings company, the shares have withered since the demerger, but once again results looked promis-ing. Operating profits, before demerger costs of £7m, were 19 per cent higher at £5.1m and the direct retail division, which designs, produces and distributes cards

to retailers, is storming away. As the lowest-cost producer with a strong market share and a client list that boasts companies such as Boots and Marks & Spencer, prospects look encouraging. On increased forecasts of Vardy can afford to splash out. While £16m, the shares - up 1.5p to 145p -

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



The following conversation was overheard by a colleague the other morning while he was waiting for a Waterloo and City Line train (otherwise known as The Drain).

First City gent: "It's looking like I'll have to wear the late tie today." Second City gent: "What's that when it's

at home?" First: "It's a hideous tie that whoever is latest

into the office has to put on for the day." Second: "How odd." First: "It gets worse. If you are more than

15 minutes late you also have to wear this gruesome pair of Royal Insurance cufflinks. The station announcer interrupts. "Owing

to a defective train, services on this line are currently subject to long delays." The two City gents look at each other. The train finally arrives, they get on and travel to

Bank where they depart and head in the direction of Guardian Royal Exchange. All very strange.

How wonderful, how very festive, to see Michael Heseltine and John Prescott united under the same banner for once. Well, almost.

Way back in the Thatcherite eighties Hezza founded a company to raise City funds for urban regeneration, and christened it: "Inner City Enterprises".

Yesterday ICE accepted an £8m bid from Enterprise, an AIM-listed company also dedicated to urban renewal, and headed by David Taylor - an old friend and part-time adviser to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Perhaps Tarzan and the former Cunard steward should take a lead from this amicable merger, and pool their ideas on resurrecting our inner cities. I'm sure they'd get on like a house on fire.

If you ever thought that receivers were the modern-day equivalent of Scrooge, then take heart from David Swaden of Leonard Curtis.

Obviously Mr Swaden has completed his conversations with the ghosts of Christmas Pasi, Present and Future, since he has just thrown a party for the residents of a nursing home which he took over as receiver a month ago.

Although Mr Swaden wasn't actually there in his party hat, he did provide the funds for the knees-up at the Greenfields Nursing Home, Oswestry, Shropshire.

The liquidator-turned-Father Christmas tells me: "We are very keen to ensure that. everyone at Greenfields feels as secure as possible about the future of the nursing home and one way of demonstrating our belief in its continuing is to provide some Christmas spirit."-

Quite right too. And while Mr Swaden is looking for a buyer, the nursing home has actually increased its number of residents from 40 to 45, with a couple more expected before

While we're on the subject of festive good works, here's a banker who's come over all environmental. Herschel Post, chief executive officer of Coutts, the Queen's bank and NatWest subsidiary, has just been elected chairman of the charity Earthwatch Europe.

Mr Post says: "Our challenge is to bring environmental literacy to those in the City. Blimey. The best of British luck, mate. I would have thought most people in the City this Yuletide would be too busy counting either their fat bonuses or their not-so-fat redundancy payments to have time for worrying about green

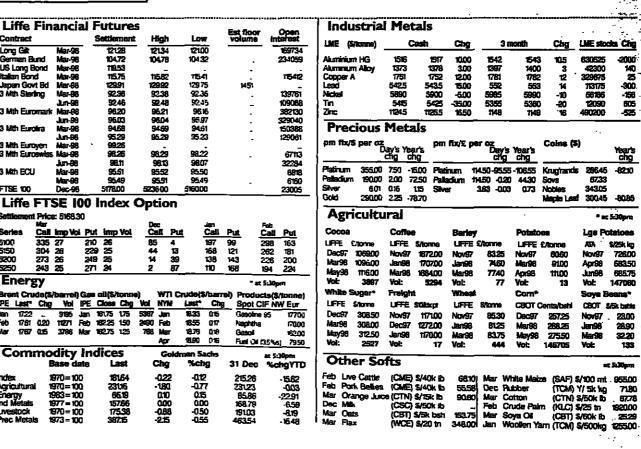
Undaunted, Mr Post adds: "Why should a fund manager acknowledge a company's environmental performance when assessing shareholder value? What are the risks involved in the environment? ... Earthwatch believes that the City needs to recognise and support environmental responsibility within the corporate sector."

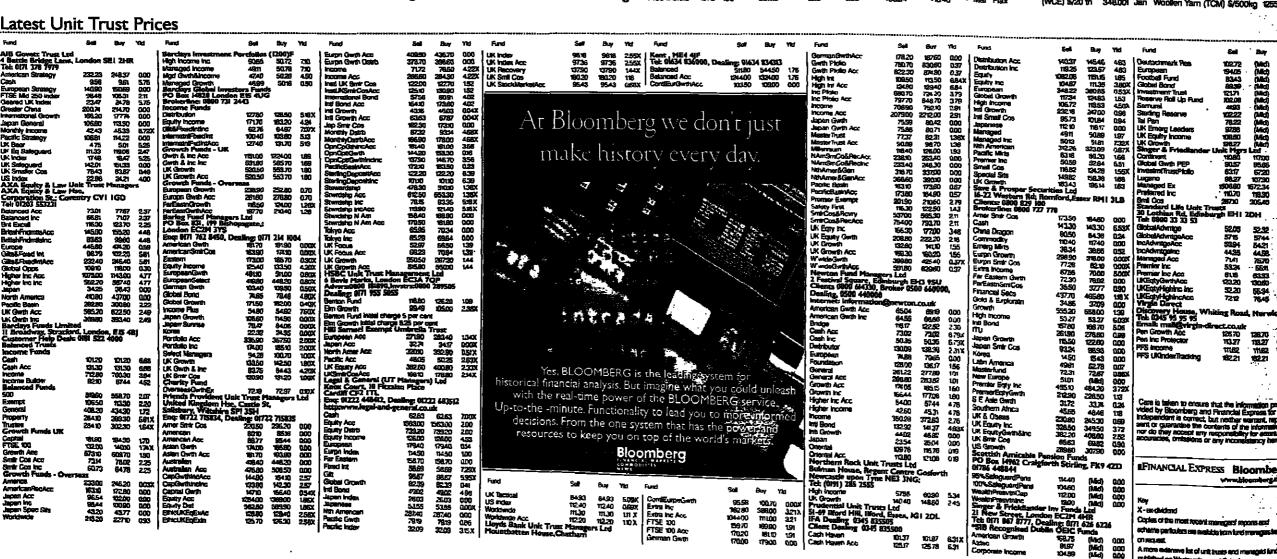
Absolutely. Oh, and I've just spotted a fleet of pigs doing loop-the-loops over Liverpool Street Station.

Remember the British Lions's superb achievements during the summer in South Africa? Reuters has sponsored a series of 15 luncheons enabling rugby fans to meet various present and former members of the Lions, culminating in a huge bash today in London for 1,100 people.

Some 7,500 fans have had the chance to vote for their "Dream Lions" team, drawing from 60 players stretching back to the 1970s. All 15 players selected will attend today's bunfight. And the winners are: full-back, JPR Williams: right wing, Gerald Davies; inside-centre, Mike Gibson; outside-centre, Jeremy Guscott; left wing, David Duckham; fly half, Barry John; scrum half, Gareth Edwards; No 8, Mervyn Davies; open-side flanker, Fergus Slattery; blind-side flanker Mike Teague; second-row No 5, Gordon Brown; second-row No 4, Willie John McBride; tight-head prop, Graham Price; hooker, Peter Wheeler; and loose-head prop, Fran Cotton.

Foreign Exchange Rates Interest Rates 06041 15265 12,512 36,530 14208 2.75% 3.30% 5.7810 11107 5.3768 5.95768 5. 38100 08097 303475 10000 15733 43535 08153 98075 21331 45791 10225 21074 09361 27729 09361 27729 09361 043759 04616 43759 04616 6.7689 11122 5.3650 5.9457 1.7764 282.26 7.7548 1.4503 1745.8 128.53 3.7923 Australia Belgium Canada ECU France German Italy Japan Mands Spain Sweder Stand UK US 2,0004 1,7100 7,2452 181,81 3,7511 1,6810 4,9020 150,46 7,7798 1,4356 3.2996 2.8261 11.956 300.47 6.2114 2.8065 8.2324 248.63 12.857 2.3604 19936 17074 72228 18153 3,7526 16955 49735 15021 7,7675 14260 Other Spot Rates Money Market Rates Sterling 06399 7314 64830 5824 60504 98790 23372 53443 73391 333839 61048 Country **Dollar Country** Dollar Argentine Brazil Chine Czech Ri Egypt Ghana Hungary India Indonesi Kuwart Nigeria Oman Prilipones Poland Qatar Russa South Korea Tanvan Theiland Turkey UAE 10000 11143 82792 34240 33952 22150 20157 39260 52050 03047 75370 1,6523 1,6523 12,763 56,917 5,6438 3682,0 335,07 65,282 8,652,3 0,5064 125,28 0.3850 44,000 39,000 3,5020 3,6398 59430 1406,00 32,150 44,150 200890 3,6725 **ECU Deposits**





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Track betting tax threat

Betting tax could return A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR to racecourses by the back door if the Racecourse Association gets its way. Greg Wood reports.

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The state of the s ing the second of the second o It is 10 years since Nigel Lawson abolished the on-course betting tax of four per cent in the 1987 Budget, but deductions from bets with bookmakers at the track could soon be a reality once again.

In its submission to a Levy Board committee considering the administration of betting rings, the Racecourse Association (RCA) is demanding the right to impose a charge of three per cent of turnover on the hookmakers operating in its enclosures - a charge which would, almost inevitably, be passed on to their customers.

The RCA has long believed that on-course bookmakers should pay more for the right to bet at their tracks than the present charge of five times the public admission price, which is laid down by law.

Its submission to the three Government-appointed members of the Levy Board, who must decide how betting areas will be administered after October 1998, claims that at present, ring bookmakers pay about £3 million to the tracks.

The RCA proposes instead a "target figure" of between £9 million and £10m, and while several methods for collecting such

UTTOXETER

2.10 BARNAGEERA BOY (nap)

GOING: Good to Soft.

Left-hand course. Run-in of 170yds.

12.40 Andanito

1.10 Toskano (nb) 1.40 Centaur Express

"the fairest system of all" would be a "pitch turnover tax". This would be raised through "the full computerisation of all betting transactions in the ring", with payment of the tax "ideally ... made at the end of each day's trading." In order to reach their target figure, the proposed rate of tax would be three per cent of turnover.

What the RCA does not acknowledge at any stage is that off-course bookmakers pass their Levy payments on to the punters in their shops, and oncourse bookies would feel compelled to do the same.

Barry Dennis turns over more money than any other boards bookmaker in the southern England, but yesterday he insisted that his net profit over the last eight years (see table) is less than 1.5 per cent.

"There would be no other way to do it than to hand it on to the punters," Dennis said yesterday. "Most people think that racecourse bookmakers are making bundles and bundles of money, but I'm earning 3.1 per cent gross on my turnover, which comes down to 1.49 per couple of per cent on and round cent after expenses. I've always tried to give punters the best value I can, I always pay eachway the first five on the Cesarewitch and some other handicaps, and I was the only person in the country who paid each-way the first four on the

2,000 Guineas. "This is all to try and encourage the public to come racing, and before the Guineas they were fighting to get on. I

2.40 Silent Valley 3.10 Listen Timmy

1 2-01 CURRCHTOWN GLEN (25) (J & CT)cton) S Brockshaw 4 11 5. C Meande 2 24-33 ANDANATO (20) (Brousprint) Lady Herres 6 7 10 . R Johnson 3 U-80 GOOD VIEW (20) (in The Frame Racing Cubit D Nicholson 5 11 0 . R Johnson 4 . LSLAUGHTIN ABBEY (263) (F M Bradey) J Medicis 5 11 0 . R Johnson 5 11 0 . R Johnson 6 SP-23 NOT FOR PARROT (14) (R Brochrish) P Hobbs 5 11 0 . R Johnson 7 Gromey 7 SP-23 NOT FOR PARROT (14) (R Brochrish) P Hobbs 5 11 0 . R Johnson 8 Gromey 7 SP-23 NOT FOR PARROT (14) (R Brochrish) P Hobbs 5 11 0 . R Villamen 8 Gromey 10 ADVENTURE PRINCESS (11) (I Normen) G Bernett 4 10 9 . Mr K B Organ (7) 9 458/1 CLAUDIA ELECTRIC (241) (Alss Margaret Lohresy) Miss C Johnson 5 10 9 D Gellagher 8 SETTING: 4-5 Andersto, 11-4 Charchtown Glen, 7-1 Marlborough, 8-1 Parly Animal, 10-1 Good View, 14-1 Not For Parrot, 25-1 others

FORM GUIDE

Andardto has still to make his mark over hurtles after his time bumper wins and, while this longer trip loculd well prove a big help, it may be best to go along with CHURCH-TOWN GLEN, a winner over a similar trip at Ludlow from in The Blood, who ran so well in defeat against Jet Files at Towcester next time. Andardto let down his supporters when only third to Dines at Wincardon, but his subsequent third at Newbury to Polydamus and Mr Markham after he clouted the second lest makes good reading. Good View, behind his winning stablemates in two bumper runs, is likely to show up well on his hurtles debut. Partly Animal did not get home at Worcaster (2n 4f) on his second start when fifth to Easy Feelin, and Not For Parrot's form doesn't look good enough. Tim Forster introduces an interesting sort in Robert Ogden's Martiborough, a tuil-brother to Jenny Pitmans winning chaser Wrekengale.

1.10 MOBILEFONE GROUP NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,250 added 3m Penalty Value £3,198

ight: 10st, True handicap weighte: Baroncelli Sst 13th, Owers Quest 9st 13th, Workingtor-

Mananum neight: 10st, Time händicap weighte: Baroncelli Sst 13th, Owers Quest 9st 13th, Workingtor-pearust: 9st 12th, Hr The Fan Bat 9th, Poto Porry 8st 8th. BETTING: 3-1 Oliver's Secret, 13-2 Cool Rumme, 7-1 Hooded Havet, Toekano, 8-1 Lovable Outtine, 13-1 Jakanto, Luga Baronigan, Calleva Star, Owens Quest, 14-1 others 1998: Covertale Lane 9 10 11 Mr P Murray 9-2 (Mrs S Smith) 12 can

SETTING: 4-5 Andersito, 11-4 CREITCHAMBER |
View, 14-1 Not For Parrot, 25-1 others
1996. Agistment 5 11 10 R Durwoody 5-2 (J FitzGeraid) 13 min
FORM GUIDE
To be writes after

3.40 Arctic Camper



A BOOKMAKER'S LEDGER: DETAILS OF BARRY DENNIS'S BUSINESS 1990-1997

Course	Meetings	Turnover	Profit/loss
Yarmouth	51	£377,594	+£3,187
Windsor	70	£407,409	+£33,245
Plumpton	69	£686,399	-£21,076
Newmarket	215	£2.989,756	+£47,223
Goodwood	28	£365,695	+£400
Ascot	99	£1,119,246	+£36,727
Kempton	119	£1,186,215	+£23,074
Sandown	96	£1,071,908	+£15,110
Epsom	52	£916,033	~£2,045
Total	799	£9,120,555	+£135.845

Gross profit: £284,265 Expenses: £148,420 Net profit: £135.845

Average turnover per meeting: £11.44.% Average annual profit: £16,980

Eight-year gross profit on turnover: 3.11 per cent Eight-year net profit on turnover: 1.49 per cent

back-row pitch at many tracks. The number of bookmakers though, to make necessary adpresent at any one meeting, meanwhile, often bears little re-

It should surely be possible, justments without expecting racegoers to pay the price. on a racecourse should also be thing of the past.

concerned by the RCA submission, since any return to oncourse deductions would weaken the betting market and give the big off-course betting chains more opportunity to manipulate starting prices to their advantage.

Morag Gray, of the RCA, said yesterday that she "would rather not comment on details which could be taken out of context". The final decision on how racecourse bookmaking will be run from next October now rests with the Levy Board. On past form, however, it would terests of punters will be a significant concern.

It is the Levy Board, you may recall, which spends £2m annually on its own administration. but refused to give a penny to the now defunct National Association for the Protection of Punters. If the RCA's submission wins the day, tax-free onbet at Ascot during the winter. lation to the size or relative. Even punters who never set foot course betting could soon be a

Senor El Betrutti waits on weather

Rain could be the bar to Senor El Betrutti running in the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day, Susan Nock, the grey's trainer, said yesterday.

Senor El Betrutti had been due to go to post for the Kempton race following wins in the Murphy's Gold Cup and Tripleprint Gold Cup, both at Cheltenham, However, Mrs Nock describes the grey as being "hopeless" on soft going, and over the festive season the permit holder's household will be watching the weather.

"Senor El Betrutti is absolutely jumping out of his skin" she said. "But now we've got the rain. He just can't run in the soft - hopeless, he'd rather run on the M25."

Ridden by Graham Bradley. the eight-year-old ran his best race so far at Cheltenham last Saturday, a display which convinced connections he was good enough for the King George.

Nock added: "He loved it. the race suited him. He was allowed to dominate and the race hasn't taken anything out of him. We decided then he was entitled to run in the King George. So if he's well and the ground is right he'll go to Kempton. If we can try for a race like that without barming him then why not? The only thing that could harm him would be the ground because be foolish to think that the in- soft ground turns him into an doned following an inspection old dog."

A new jockey would be needed for Senor El Betrutti with Bradley booked to ride Suny Bay for Charlie Brooks.

Terry Casey will make a decision this morning on Rough Quest's participation in the King George. The trainer said there was a "distinct possibility" that Rough Quest would make the line-up.

Casey said yesterday: "He had a nice canter this morning and we'll see how he is tomorrow. He will have a nice swinging canter and it depends how he feels as to what we decide. He's in excellent shape. He's

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Wildmoor (Lingfield 12.15) NB: Without Friends (Lingfield 1.20)

eaten up well but he just lost a little bit of weight at Haydock." Casey said if Rough Quest did run at Kempton he expect-

ed Mick Fitzgerald to ride Rough Quest, 8-1 from 10-1, and Suny Bay, 5-2 from 100-30, have been backed for the race with Coral.

WILD COTAL
Corat: Evens One Man, 5-2 Suny Bay, 9-2
Barton Bank, 8-1 Rough Quest , 12-1 Senor
III Bethurti, 25-1 bar.
William Hill: 4-5 One Man, 11-4 Suny Bay,
4-1 Barton Bank, 10-1 Rough Quest 12-7
Senor II Bethurti, 20-1 Challenger Du Luc,
Djeddah, See More Business, 50-1 bar.

 Waterlogging caused today's meeting at Hexham to be abanat 5pm yesterday.

Sheikh enters 57 for Derby

Sheikh Mohammed has entered 57 yearlings for the 1999 Derby. The figure is an increase on the 45 entries he made Godolphin.

Yearling entries for the 1999 Derby total 544, just two down on the 1998 figure.

Numerically, the leading for the 1998 race. A further 45 English owner is Michael Tabor yearlings have been entered by with 25 yearlings, an increase from the 15 he entered last year.

RESULTS

TOWCESTER TOWCESTER

12.40: 1. MARGI BOO (R Johnson) 9-1;
2. Welsh Spinner 10-1; 3. The Emerator 14-1
13 rant. 7-2 fav My Man in Dundeik. 11/4, 3
(M Sheppard, Ladbury). Tote: E1120; 2:260,
23.0, 6:570. DF: 248.80. CSF: 529.26. Tricast: £18591. Tric: £199.20; 2:533 carned forward to Lingfield 3.20 today.
1.10: 1. SPARKLING CONE (N
Williamson) 8-1; 2. Strong Vision 9-1; 3.
Dantes Cavaller 2-1 fav. 14 rän., 12, 11/4.
(Mss. Venedie Williams, Herreford). Tote:

Dames Cavaller 2-1 ray, 14 ran, 12, 1%. (Mss. Veneda Williams, Hersford), Tota: \$50; \$120, \$290, \$220, DF: \$44/0, CSF: \$5477, This: \$7980, NR: Conticura.

1.40; 1. NATIVE FIELD (W Marston) 13-2;
2. Ever Smile 7-1; 3. Casatie Secret 11-2, 12 ran, 13-8 fay Larsdowne (4th), 3, 8, (D Wintle, Westbury-on-Severn), Tota: \$7040, \$230, \$220, \$240, DF: \$5780, CSF: \$48.87.

6300. 5220. 6240 DF: 55780. CSF: 248.87. Tho: 572.80.
2.10: 1. HILL TRDX (L Harvey) 10-1: 2. General Tonic 9-2: 3. Boots Madden evens fav. 6 rar. 10. 5 (K Bishop, Bridgwater) Rose 9595. 5 vol. 5320 DF: 52680 CSF: 5001. Ticset: £78.5. Thio: 518.0 NF: Cats Run, Dolloos, Lay It Off.
2.40: 1. BFIACEY RUN (C Llewellyn) 7-4: 2. Go Cahoots 14-1: 3. Bellet High 13-3 fav. 16 ran. ½. ½. U.O.L Wooghton). Totae 5400: 5200. E30. 5190. DF: 26730. CSF: 52852. Thio: 52090. NF: Royal Diversion; Sarawood. 3.10: 1. PETE THE PARSON (M A Fizzgerald) Evens fav: 2. Perliamentarium 13-8: 3. Capitain Khediwe 9-1.4 ran. 13, dist. (J Okt. Wooghton). Totae: 5200. DF: 5180. CSF: 5301.
3.40: 1. RUSSELL ROAD (R Massey) 7-2: 2. Ardifuman 9-4 ji fav. 73. Deputy Leader 7-1.15 ran. 9-4 ji fav. Miner's Bif (5th). ½. 2 (D Nicholson, Temple Guitang). Totae: 5200: 51890. NRs: Father McCarten. Obiterate, Sharp Practice.

Sharp Practice.
Jackpot: not won; £4,317.39 camed forward to Ultioxater today.
Placepot: £1,076.10. Quadpot: £37.80.
Place 6: £785.51. Place 5: £124.01.

CATTERICK

12.30: 1. CLAIRESWAN (R Thomton) 14-1; 2. Cash Box 5-1; 3. Diddy Rymer 7-2 8v. 11 can. 4, 1%. (M Tompkins, Newmar-ket) Tote: \$14.30; \$4.20, \$2.30, \$130. DF: \$25690 CSF: \$7152 Tricast: \$27605 Tric: \$2800.

£28.00 1.00: 1. LINDEN'S LOTTO (B Harding) 7-2; 2. River Unshion 2-1 fav. 3. The Bud Club 12-1. 7 ran. 5. 15. (G Richards, Greytacke) Tota: £520; £160, £110, DF: £360. CSF: £248.

CSF: 1248. 1:30: 1. FEN TERRIER (B.Harding) 7-4 fay, 2. Hobbs Choice 8-1; 3. Diamond Beach 4-1 7 ran. 5, 10. (F. Murtagh, Cariste). Tote: 1230; 1280 (2290 DF: 1290 CSF; 1229). 2,00: 1. JOE JAGGER (R. Garritty) 5-1 ft. 2.00; 1. JOE JAGGER (R Gartiny) 5-1 pt fav; 2. Whitegates Wille 17-2; 3. Deel Cusy 5-1 pt tax, 10 ran, 4, 3. (M Hammond, Mid-defam). Rote: \$4.20; \$1.80, \$1.90, \$1.70. DE: \$7.70, \$C\$F: \$3.004. Thus: \$1.590, 2.30; 1. TAKE COVER (P Carberry) 5-1; 2.30: 1, TAKE COVER (P Carberry) 5-1:
2. No Finer Man 4-1: 3. Point Reyes 20-1
15 ran, 7-2 tay Swyrfford Pride (pußed up)
2, "!- (M Tomplons, Newmarker), Tota:
18.30: ESDO, E240, E720 DF: E890, CSF:
CM88. Trio: E1900 ; E13387 camed toward to Lingfield 3.20 today, NR: Ceepyell
3.00: 1. PRINCE OF SAINTS (F Gernty) 8-15 fav, 2. Fernvlok's Brother 6-1; 3.
lapatch 13-2 6 ran, 4; 5. (M Harmmond, Middehem?) Tota: E160; £110, E250, DF: £270.
CSF: £449, NR: Kildnummy Castle.
2.30: 1, GUS BERRY (X Acquir) 20-1;
2. Welllington Street 10-1; 3. Branch End
10-1, 8 ran, 4-9 fav Over The Beck, 1, 2%.

(D Forster, Darlington), Tote: £2150; £230, £190, £200, DF: £9990, CSF: £18637, Tric: £1220; £7270 carried forward to Lingfield 320 today, NR: Valhalta. Placepot: £2240, Quadipot: £1250, Place 6: £1730, Place 5: £823.

SOUTHWELL SOUTHWELL

11.50: 1. BENTICO (G Fauforer) 11-4 tav;
2. Yeoman Oliver 13-2; 3. Saratoga Red
8-1. 15 ran. 11/4, 1/6, (Mrs N Macaulsy). Tota:
5340; 5110. \$250, \$200. DF; \$2000. DF;
5725; Tric: \$1850. NF; Cabcharge Blue.
12.20: 1. GODMERSHAM PARK (Dean
MCKeown) 11-2; 2. Mr Paradisse 12-1; 3.
Chaluz 11-4 tav; 4. Gablesse 10-1 15 ran.
11/6, 1/6, (P Feloste). Tota: \$740; \$120, \$330.
\$150, \$540. DF; \$5280. CSF; \$7085. Tricast:
223.23. Tric: \$4550.

12.50: 1. NOTATION (A McCarthy) 3-

22.23.2 Trio: 24.550
12.50: 1. NOTATION (A McCarthy) 3.1
12.50: 1. NOTATION (A McCarthy) 3.1
12.50: 1. NOTATION (A McCarthy) 3.1
12.50: 2. Course Flahing 8-1; 3. Whitiey
Grange Boy 3-1 co fav. 13 ran. 3-1 co fav.
Pharly Dencer (4th) 3. 3%. (D Chapmen).
Tote: 24.50; 2.70; 2.90; 2.90 DF: 57/40 CSF:
228.49. Tricast: 27.745, Trio: 228.70
1.20: 1. JOSEPH'S WINE (FI Cochrane)
5-1; 2. Ethon Ledger 13-2; 3. Davis Rock 4-1
15-ran. 2-1 fav Pine Ritgo I.ad. 5; 2/4 (J Wharton).
Tote: 27.90; 22-00, 22-00; 21:00 DF: 229.50
CSF: 23568. Trio: 24.90, NF: Banneret.
1.50: 1. LIVE PROJECT (S Whitworth).
20-1; 2. Be Warmed 7-1; 3. Shades Of Love
8-1; 4. I 6 ran. 5-1 fav Deenty, strind. //s. (R
Craggs). Tote: 242.80; 56.20, 51.50, 53.50,
22.00; DF: £134.70. CSF: £183.07. Tricast:
2108.234. Tric. not won; £33.32 carried forward to Lingfield 3.20 today.
2.20: 1. PM TEF (R Winston) 10-1; 2. Primary Colours 7-4 fav; 3. Essentiess 4-1;
4. Nalsed Cat 44-1 f8 ran. //s. 1/s. (T Easterly). Tote: £1550; £2.00. Tricast: £25632. Tho:
£774.40
2.50: 1. PIP'S ADDITION (T Sprake) 4-1;
2. Lady Laphrosig 6-1; 3. Shades A Gem 11-4
fav. 15 ran. nk. 3/s. (J Glover). Tote: £4.70;
£2.70; £1.40; £3.00. DF: £2.50. CSF: £26.44.
Tric: £27.40. Reploy Girl (7-11 west withdrawn not under orders. Pute 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in the pound.
3.20: 1. AFAAN (S Righton) 4-1; 2.
Nobalino 8-1; 3. Broadstairs Beauty 6-1;
4. La Doyenne 4-1. 16 ran. 11-4 tav.
Canows Haart 2. /s. (R Marvin). Tote: £600;
£330. 5290. 2290. 2590. DF: £2890. CSF:
£228. Tricast: £25651. Trio: £8050. NR: Ziggy's Dancer.

gy's Dancer. Placapot: £135.20. Quadpot: £5160. Placa 6: £10753. Place 5: £59.67.

THE INDE	PENI	<u>DENT</u>		
RACING	SERV	ICES		
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Tax haven: Winning bets at courses could once again become subject to deductions

that's one every four seconds. But if they try to charge me three per cent, it will have to be a straight deduction from the punter.'

Inevitably, such a charge would also be a temptation for a Chancellor searching for every penny he can find. "Why should it stop there?", Dennis asks. "The Government will be looking at it and thinking, that's handy, we used to get millions off racecourses. Now they're deducting, so we'll put another it up to five."

It would be foolish to claim that the current regime in the betting ring is ideal. A bookmaker's length of service, rather than its standard, is what matters most, and there are long waiting lists to bet at many courses.

Dennis, for instance, has been in the game almost 30 years, but is still not allowed to

a sum are discussed, argues that did 860 tickets in an hour, and is forced to occupy a poor, wealth of the crowd. FORM GUIDE When COOL RUNNER best a monster field over hundles at Worcester two years ago in When COOL HUNNER beat a monster held over hundes at Worcester two years ago it was on his second run of the season, so it could be his day again after his reappearance thrid to Wandering Light at Ludlow when thred in binkers. Beaten only three lengths when getting just a pound from that useful winner. Cool Runner has 12to less to hump this time and has the highly competent Robert Thornion to hold him together. Martin Pipe has a live sort in opposition in Otiver's Secret, who might have won at Towcester but for talking at the water He did nothing wrong at Leitester next time when making every yard to beat Nicky Henderson's Jobsagoodun by 10 lengths and looks the type to go on improving. Hooded Hawrk is a withing hunder at sharp Palkenham and he chased home Glendoe inhibitive lesser at Tainthon next time lover a brotest time at Frottwell time his channel of his

noticed reasons is a writing nurser at sarp reterminant and ne cressed notes bestock (unlucky loser at Taunton next time) over a shorter trip at Fontivet on his chasing debut. But I tancy some of these will outstay him. One who has caught my eye in the past is Beroncelli and he's worth a small each way punt at big odds. Wirming pointer Working-forpeanuts, who had a run over hurdles tast rune. has dams with a low weigh and she probably needed the run at Market Rasen last month. Toskano has fast-ground form but. he stays, but Granitam Pride looks reky in his first-time blinkers after finishing taked off at Whoanton. This looks a tougher test for Lovable Outlaw after he win from Owens Quest at Southwell and Jalcanto, Callevia Star and Lugs Brannigan (remounted at Lordester) may also be found wanting.

Selection: COOL RUNNER

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: RUP-in or 170ytis.

Course is SE of from near BED17. Ultimeter station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course.

ADMISSION: Culo 25 (CAPs 212). Tethersalis 210 (CAPs 27); Course SA CAR PARK: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 40-133 (2015), K Ballay 23-13 (2045), D Nicholson 20-91 (22%), O Sherwood 17-58 (283%), N Twiston-Davies 17-86 (177%), P Hobis 15-85 (188%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 37-157 (235%), A P McCoy 26-94 (277%), N Williamson 23-130 (177%), D Bridgestler 18-94 (191%), W Marston 12-120 (10%).

■ RAVOURTES: 248-655 (279%).

BI INKERED FIRST TIME: Grantsum Pride (11%). 1.40 ALAN POVEY SIGNS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m Penalty Value £3,355 12.40 E.B.F. 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,000 edded 2m 4f 110yds Penaity Value £1,945

P1/211 BURES (20) (D) (JH Hewitt) Mrs J Brown 6 m 10 100-52 CENTAUR EXPRESS (8) (D) (Centaur Racing Lind A Streeter 5 in 9 10/13- WRINTS PRIOE (272) (C) (D) (Ms W L Saley) R Holinshead 5 in 0 S Wynne 6132 NIPPER REED (24) (CD) (6F) (6 Poet R Smoson 7 to 5 A P McCop State R Smoson 7 to 5 A P McCop State R Smoson 7 to 5 A P McCop State R Smoson 7 to 5 A P McCop State R Smoson 7 to 5 A P McCop State R Smoson R Smoson R Smoson R Smoson R Smoson R P Carbony

13523 DIEGO (13) (CD) (Peter J Douçlas Engreening) M Primari 4 10 4 - 6 deciared -SETTING: 9-4 Raffles Rouster, 100-30 Centaur Express. 7-2 Diego. 9-2 Bures, 8-1 Napper Reed,

1996 Tejamo Gold 6 11 0 R Dunerbody 9-2 IP Stadley) 7 ren FORM GUIDE

RAFFLES ROOSTER is interesting at this shorter distance. Four times a winner on the Flat, over jumps he has just been found wanting over longer trips than today's. He caught a tartar in Easy Feelin at Worcester (20 myals behind him), and a final-light inistake at a tartar in Easy Feelin at Worcester (20 mais betwich him) and a final-flight inistake at Newbury runed his chance against Welsh Sill- and Stormy Session who were both getting plenty of weight. Paul Carberry, who node Raffles Roosser at Worcester, is back on board and this trip gives the gelding more chance of bringing his pace into action. Diego made a winning debut on this course and he was here again last month when brushed aside by the in-form muclover Sant Cerl Trivo to his stablemate Balkabur at Sandown last time. Diego should not well with a low weight. Bures has the weight to dely after his frontrunning wins at Sedgefield and Newcastle, while the mucl-lowing Nipper Reed may not be good enough on his reappearance even with the help of Tony McCoy Winn's Pride won tim the course first time up last season but makes time appeal his time while Centaur Express is on a good handidap main and he is ready to go dose after last weeks good effort against Guttendge at Marker Rasen.

Selection RAFFLES ROOSTER

2.10 ST MODWEN LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m Penalty Value £4,332

ZZI-W SUBLINE FELLOW (20) (D) For McFath M Hercesch 7 II (0) 221-14 SUBLIME PELLOW (20) (D) First Weisstra Wildersesson 7 in 10 Min A Rizgerski
344F6 RANDOM ASSAULT (13) (D) First Remote Let C Metabor 5 in 5 Min O MicPhail (7) 33-231 BARNAGEERA BOY (6) (D) -Ws DE Wison Wileric 5 7 5 (5a) R Durwood 2F5-34 MOUSE BIRD (20) (Copen Fierra, Di Garrosto 7 th 9) 55-643 CIRCULATION (28) (D) Clavico Bige, Factorists Ltd. D McCar. 11 10 5 G Hogan (3)

Minimum weight 10st 5th True residents we gro Croudston Tot 11th BETTING: 5-4 Barrageere Boy. 7-4 Sublime Fellow. 100-30 Mouse Bird. 10-1 Random Assault. 16-1 1996 Super Tacques 8 ft 0 F Herdey (3) 9-2 (F) Ameri 4 ran FORM GUIDE

- 5 declared -

Sublime Fellow p.st couldn't compre up any more from the second last when fourth to Subtime Pellow put couldn't conjure up any more from the second last when fourth to Native Mission has since proved no match for BARNAGEERA BOY at Haydook and Noky Hendersons charge has to concede 5to to Barnageera Boy who won in the style of an improved sort. Random Assault didn't jump to web at Wetherby on his reappearance and he was last of four in this race less year. Mouse Bird four to Sounts Pyre at Nextony (2m 4) last time, may not be strong enough to take advantage of the 10th he gets from Barnageera Boy, and Circulation is likely to find the race too hot.

Selection EARNAGEERA 50th

2.40 DOUGLAS ENGINEERING LTD SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 added 3YO 2m Penalty Value £1,896GLINNERS GLORY (22) (fan Blakey) Mrs. L. Stubbs 10 10 0 ZANABAY (7) (Pete Daylon) G Fierro 105_.

— 11 declared —
BETTING: 5-2 Silent Valley, 9-2 My Hero, 5-1 Gurmers Glory, 5-1 Cadbury Castle, Pairick, 10-1 Sun Falry, 14-1 Zunabey, After Hours, 16-1 Fee Live, My Betry, 20-1 Hopperatis 1996 Stonecutter 3 to 10 R Hughes 9-4 fav (M Chambon) 14 nan 1996 Storeauter 3 10 to 8 Hughes 94 law (M Chamburg in the FOREM GUIDE)
This race is bad enough to suggest Silent Valley has a winning chance now she's back against her own age after being number-up to Tabriz at Doncaster. She hasn't looked the against her own age after being number-up to Tabriz at Doncaster. She hasn't looked the against her own age after being number-up and CADBURY CASTLE is the fun but the chant are down and CADBURY CASTLE in the fun but the chant are down and CADBURY CASTLE in the fun but the chant are down and CADBURY CASTLE in the fun but the chant are down and CADBURY CASTLE in the fun but the chant are down and CADBURY CASTLE in the fun but the chant are down and CADBURY CASTLE in the fun but the chant are down and CADBURY CASTLE in the fun but the chant are down and CADBURY CASTLE in the fun but the chant are down and castle chant are chant as a contract of the chant are down and castle chant are chant as a contract of the chant are down and castle chant are chant as a chant a

with top claimer Xavier Account booked after a slaving-on fourth to Kingsdown Trix in a with top claimer Xavier Account booked after a slaving-on fourth to Kingsdown Trix in a non-seller at Fontwell My Hiero has had a run on the Flat since her creditable debut fourth to Martin Prices hot port Crote Of Margin at Tournon. Gunners Glory fell at the first flight in that same race. He was in fourth at the time and he had some sprinting form when with Brian Mechan. Patrick shaped pretty well on his debut at Hereford, and his stable-male Sun Fairy faced a stem test on her introduction when pulled up in Controlsee's race at Leicester.

3.10 WELLMAN PLC NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,664

d	3	.40	E.B.F. 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) \$23,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value \$2,505
	1	5-:	LORD OF THE RIVER (23) (B T Stewart Brown) () Sherwood 5 ft 5 J A McCarthy
	2	24	ARCTIC CAMPER (240) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 5 Tl 0 R Johnson
Y	3		A VERSE TO ORDER (37) (T N Bailey) Mass P Whate-6 m () T Jeniks
9	4	0-	BABBLING BROOK (223) (A Stennett & Mrs J Stennett) P Hobbs 5 11 0 R Dunwoody
	5	PP-00	KING PADDY (14) (Mrs S A Evans) Mrs S Johnson 5 TI 0 R Thornton
	£		LORD SABRE (8) (J H Handarson) J L Harris 4 11 ()
1	7	4.3	SWEET LORD (37) if S Networking Solutions Littly M Bradstock 6 11 D Doubtful
-	3	34± €	SHARP ALICE (13) (A Hollingsworth) A Hollingsworth 6 10 S Mir Edgar Byrne (7)
			# J1J

- 6 declared -BETTING: 4-6 Anotic Comper 13-8 Lord Of The River, 12-1 Babbling Brook, 26-1 King Paddy, 50-1 others

Lord Of The River won on his hurdes debut at Windsor after a bumper run last season, and ARCTIC CAMPER can do the same after his vasity superior ability in the bumper league Connections can be looking forward to a good campaign from Arctic Camper fine turns out half as tough as his dain, that wonderful stayer Mayorte. Second for recent hurdles winner Country Beau at Kempton after the Farryhouse debut win, Arctic Camper then beat at except Florida Pearl in the top race at the Chettenham Festival. The promiss was confirmed when he won at Punchestown Selection: ARCTIC CAMPER

LINGFIELD (A.W.)

HYPERION 12.15 Papita 12.45 Jubilee Scholar 1.20 Magazine Gap 1.50 Just Another Time 2.20 Chipstead Bay 2.50 Pleasuredancer 3.20 Churchill's Shadow

Shadow

GOING: Standard, STALLS: 5f & 6f - outside; rest - misde,
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best 5f & 6f

Equireck surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.
Course is SE of town on B2028, Lingfield station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course, ADMISSION: Members £6, Family Endosure SE, CAR PARK: Club S3; remainder free.
LEADING TRANIERS: G L Moore 75-575 (39k), M Johnston 6f-31 (36%), R Haminon 50-363 (327%), R O'Suffiyer 47-348 (35%), GEADING JOCKEYS: R Cochane 68-409 (85%), A Clark 65-532 (22%), J Quitin 47-707 (66%), S Whitworth 41-305 (34%).
FAVOURITES: 773-2283 (335%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Capitain's Day (insored) (120).

12.15 HOTSPUR AMATEUR RIDERS added 1m 4f

added 1 m 4f

1 DEA-0 ADRUM (J10) J Bridge 3 ft 0 _ ... Miss R Binson (S) 1
2 0-360 DOSSES DAN (J30) 6 Preco 5 ft 0 ... Mr ft Epigrave 2 8
3 15000 FROW BACK (J30) (D) G Emight 5 ft 0 ... Mr T McCarthy 8 B
4 08000 LER CRU (888) G Emight 8 ft 0 ... Mr S Prodey (f) 4
5 00500 PROFESSION (19 G Eright 8 ft 0 ... Mr S Prodey (f) 4
6 025000 SMARK (USA) (27) K Contextod 7 ft 0 ... Dr A Kinsher (f) 7
7 013301 WILDMOOR (6) (D) John Berry 3 ft 3 ... Mr G EBOR 10 E
8 C-0504 APRESH (37) 1 Pract-heyes 4 ft ff ... Mr P Scott 12
9 50435 LAIREL SEEUCH (J16) Mrs A Pernett 3 19 ... Mr S Foste (f) 5
10 04004 APRESH (37) 1 Fract-heyes 4 ft ff ... Mr S Woons (5) 6
2 000630 PAPITA (149 (87) N Lampard 3 10 6... Mr J Crondey (5) 3
- 12 dactored
BETTING: 7-4 Wildmood, 11-4 Laurel Seeker, 13-2 Arsish, 8-1 Papita, 12-1
Plow Back, 14-1 Accentra, Shahar, 18-1 Addion, Nobie Hero, 33-1 others

in the second of the second

12.45 ATROPOS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV

HEFTTHG: 4-1 Legal Issue, 9-2 Haydh James, 5-1 Guesstimation, 6-1 Martin Franchise, Jubilee Scholat, Gold Clipper, 12-1 Our Shadee, 14-1 Mislenani, Sejaal, 16-1 Na Hutbheachu, 20-1 othera. ATROPOS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV 1.20 II) £3,300 added 1m 2f

55000 FORT MOX (9) (C) R Flower 6 9 2 ... S Drowne 13 B 22001 RUSY ESTATE (ASS) N German 6 9 3 ... Dane O'Nell 14 +6803 RUSY ESTATE (ASS) N German 6 9 3 ... Dane O'Nell 14 +6803 RUSY (7) (C) R Flower 4 9 5 ... R Cockware 11 00050 CAPTAINS DAY (9) (CD) H Cockmytube 5 9 2 ... M Fenton 7 V 000000 MBHANDIS (27) G L Moore 4 9 1 ... Candy Morris 1 B 66432 WITHOUT FREEDIS (21) J F Hover 3 5 5 ... A Whetan (3) 2 59030 EDS FOLLY (85) S Dow 4 8 3 ... P Dou (7) 4 A Clark 3 60030 EDS FOLLY (85) S Dow 4 8 3 ... P Dou (7) 4 A Clark 3 60030 EDS FOLLY (85) S Dow 4 8 3 ... P Dou (7) 4 A Clark 3 60030 EDS FOLLY (85) S Dow 4 8 3 ... No Tabbut 9 200003 MANCHED (21) G MOORT 6 A FROM 6 A A Clark 3 6003 EDS FOLLY (85) S NO TABBUT 6 A FROM 6 A A Clark 3 60030 EDS FOLLY (85) R NO TABBUT 6 A FROM 6 A

- 14 declared
Manmum weight 7st 10b Tive handcab weight 15st 1mb 6st 130

SETTING: 9-2 Proteins Bay, 5-1 Capteins Day, 13-2 Silver Hande, 7-1

Billaddie, Without Friends, 8-1 Dancing Deatiny, Eds Folly, 10-1 Inkwell, 12-1 Sharemataz, 14-1 Magazine Gap, 15-1 Fort Knox, 20-1 others

1.50 WITCH OF ENDOR CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 5f 2000: JUST ANOTHER TIME (36) (C) J Serry 8 13 P Roberts (3) 3

A Clark 5 09531 PRIVATE SEAL (7) (0) (BF) G 1 Moore 8 9 A Clark 5 5547) RISKY WHISKY (11) (CD) J Bern 8 3 P Brasiler (7) 5 10023 SUPER GEL (11) (D) C Dwyer 8 6 A Whelan (3) 1 V 336540 DANDE TIMES (7) N harry 8 5 March Dwyer 2 N Carlisia 4 50024 MISS BANANAS (11) T 22 8 0 - 6 declared -SETTING: 9-4 Just Another Time, 11-4 Private Seal, 7-2 Risky Whisky, 9-2 Super Gell, 6-1 Mas Bananas, 12-1 Dande Times

2.20 LE REVE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 6f 02550 APOLLO RED (17) (CD) G L Moore 8 to 0 Candy Morris 4 000521 PALACEGATE TOUCH (35) (C) (D) J Berry 7 9 7 P Bradley (7) 7 8 030550 THAT MAN AGAIN (21) S C Williams 5 9 6 Dame O'Neill 6 00025 ROBO MAGIC (21) (CD) (BF) L Montague Hall 5.9.5

Second Chiral EAST (7) (CU) N KON 3 8 3 (7ex) C Scally 5 - 10 declared - 10 declared - 10 declared - Second Second

2.50 LYDIA MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 1m ☼ CARADOC (52) S € Williams ₹ 0 . W Ryan 6 M Wighern 3 D Biggs 5 CS.* FLIGHT (120) 5 Dow 3 D FREE (95) Mrs M. Ferede, 9 () HAMIMAN HIGHWAY (20) M. Tomphic 3 () : PLEASUREDANCER (75) W (1/2 mman 51. Emma O'Gomman 1

3.20 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £4.025 added 7f

2000001 LITTLE PILGRIM (48) T Jones 4 7 10 N Certiste 7 - 16 declared -Umarrum weight, 1st 10to True handicap weights, Aegean Sound 7st 8th, Chad a Lecy, 7st 7th Lette Pilipson 7st 7th BETTING: 4-1 Churchilf's Shadow, 5-1 Ivon's Deed, 13-2 Materika, 7-1 Sharp Imp, 8-1 Itemethepost, 10-1 Aegean Sound, La Poble Fusee, Mogin, 12-1 Lift Boy, Sazzing, 14-1 Wory's Grab Hine, Regal Splandow, 18-1 Royal Cartion, 20-1 others opponents at their peril.

This was not the final the organisers were hoping for. Like two interlopers who had drunk the bar dry and polished of the food, England and the West Indies, who compete today for the Akai-Singer Champions Trophy, have spoilt the party. For only the second time in Sharjah cricket's 16-year history history, neither India or Pakistan will feature in the final, a fact that is certain not to please their countrymen who make up the lion's share of the workforce within these wealthy princedoms.

As the only side with an upbeaten record, as well as a decade of one-day dominance over the West Indies, England must surely start favourites. They are a confident team led by a confident young captain and playing ultra efficient cricket. Adam Hollioake may dread all manner of things, but none of them seem to exist on a cricket field, a characteristic that appears to have rubbed off wholesale on his team.

There is less formality on display too and players feel at liberty to enjoy themselves. At the official dinner on Wednesday night, England's players, led by Alec Stewart who danced a waltz with a belly-dancer, entered into the fun. Graham Thorpe, not someone you normally find swinging from the chandeliers, then delivered a something that has been seen as the side. But if those guys are driver. strikingly good imitation of endemic within English cricket, extrovert, confident and posi-Geoff Boycott to the 600 guests so how did Hollioake explain the before Hollioake senior, rarely a shrinking violet took to the a walking cane on his nose.

For those who had witnessed



England leave the field with their 'coffins' after a practice session ahead of today's Champions Trophy final against the West Indies in Sharjah. For only the second time in the Photograph: Chris Turvey/Empics competition's 16-year history neither Pakistan or India will take part in the final

year ago, the bonhomie here has yesterday. "If the main players would treat the Prime Minister you start saying that this player team, now showing signs of to bowlers with spin, as they did been both remarkable and con- are whingy, moaning people tagious. Blowing hot and cold is warm glow created here?

"Team atmosphere is a stage and attempted to balance funny thing and it really comes down to having a few strong characters in the side," said the long faces in Zimbabwe a England's one-day captain

then that will breed throughout tive, then that will spread throughout the side instead."

Citing Warwickshire's Dougie Brown as the kind of down to earth cricketer he respects, Hollioake went on to say he was looking for players who

way as he would a rickshaw

"What you find then, if you take that attitude on to the cricket field and you meet Brian Lara, is that you don't see him any differently to the bloke playing his first one-day

"If you don't do that, then

of Pakistan in exactly the same is better than that one and you revival after their abject tour of Pakistan, and England understart to become intimidated by estimate them at their peril. them, as well as underestimating the other guy, who you then think can't play."

Hollioake may not yet be an

orator in the Winston Churchill mould, but his philosophy is a sound one. More fittingly, it is categorically the right one to but when did a West Indies side adopt against this West Indies last take all the wickets to fall

and out. Courtney Walsh's side have raised themselves here with some intelligent and spirited cricket. They may lack England's all-round soundness,

Having been virtually down

the other night against India? The answer is probably not

since the days of Sonny Ramadhin and Alf Valentine in the early 1950's. They may have met already once in this competition, but England must beware: this is not a conventional West Indies team, and bowlers - Walsh, Merv Dillon

and Franklyn Rose - they have not played conventional Caribbean cricket.

Nevertheless, with two days to prepare the pitch - the same one England have used in their previous three matches - the groundsman feels it will behave as it did during the opening game of the competition, offering less spin and more pace. Despite murmurings that Ashley Giles may come into the side, it is a combination that will probably see England play an unchanged side.

With an over-reliance on 🎒 Alec Stewart, who has been superb along with the bowling and fielding, it is only the batting that can realistically be improved. Maintaining the momentum after a breezy start, has been the stumbling block for most sides, and England's middle-order must avoid being asphyziated by leg-spinner Rawl Lewis and his off-spinning counterpart Carl Hooper.

England's bowlers too, so effective when backed by athletic razor sharp fielding must not get complacent. Lara may look out of form and generally out to lunch, but he is still the one player on both sides capable of turning the course of a match on its head. If he gets runs, both English efficiency and Hollioake's captaincy may well be given their sternest test yet.

Happily however, it is a contest that can now be seen on television in Britain, with highlight packages being shown today on BBC2 and again on Grandstand tomorrow. With Sky having made a substantial offer for live broadcast - thought to be in the region of £25,000 - rejected by Worldtel, the owners of the broadcasting rights, the drama still may have a twist or turn left in it.

So, no doubt, does the cricket and win or lose, England have proved that one-day cricket is best played with what might called, all-round specialists. As the song goes, once you apart from the three fast have seen Paris there is no

Powell fails to find support from batsmen

yesterday as they were bowled Chris Schofield (34). out for 192 - 123 behind the match in Port Elizabeth.

post a score of 300, contrived to lose wickets in clusters to make life extremely difficult for themselves. Three wickets went on

England Under-19 were let following a partnership of 79 bedown by their batting again tween Graeme Swann (44) and

South African Student XI on the having to follow on loomed nings. Earlier, resuming on 255 second day of their three-day large, but Swann and Schofield for 4, they had declared their stayed together for 25 overs The tourists, who have yet to until the latter was given out leg before to the off-spinner Morgan Mfobo, despite playing a long way forward. The acting captain, Stephen Peters, and Graham 38, two on 94 and three on 175 Napier had earlier looked in

good form but had not been able to build on good starts.

The students were 14 for 0 At 96 for 6, the prospect of at the close in their second infirst innings on 315 for 9. with

in the Nat West Trophy in 1999, adding to the international

The England and Wales Cricket Board yesterday conthe Essex off-spinner Jonathan firmed the Danes' inclusion in Scotland, Ireland and the Neth- he called the "negative" Powell picking up four wickets the one-day competition, which erlands, along with the 18 Eng. Australian media. He also in his first match of the tour. will be contested by 60 teams in lish first-class counties and 38 admitted he was not at his TOUR MATCH (Second day of three) Port Elizabeth: South Africa Students XI 315 for 9 dec (D Mortat 130, G King 78, J C Powel 4-42) and 14 for 0; England Under-19 XI 192.

Tour MATCH (Second day of three) Port two years' time. When Denmark amateur teams representing the new County Boards in England.

Tour MATCH (Second day of three) Port two years' time. When Denmark amateur teams representing the new County Boards in England.

enlarged 60-over tournament. at Brondby, near Copenhagen. his weight.

The opposition will com-

Danes join NatWest party in 1999 Warne: 'I didn't spit the dummy'

Denmark will take their place during their first campaign, but The Australian spin bowler the situation will be reviewed for Shane Warne said yesterday walked out of the unveiling of go and play golf. 2000 depending on the quality—that he is not too upset with the flavour of English cricket's of a new grass square being laid media's "petty" fascination with

> However, the leg spinner did prise the existing participants make an outburst against what

a wax model of himself - as soon

On Tuesday, he abruptly wanted to get out of there and

"I thought: "Why am I standas a journalist asked him about ing here while some bloke asks his weight. Yesterday, Warne, me about my weight?' Next Victoria's Sheffield Shield week it will be something else."

clarify... a lot's been said about fittest he had been in his career. me storming out. I wasn't up- but he added: "You tell me to set, I didn't spit the dummy. go and bowl 30 overs on the last "I thought it was an issue day of a Test match and help win enter the NatWest, they will the new County Boards in could still help win matches for that was petty. I didn't think it the match for Australia. I was worth going into details. I reckon I can do that."

TENNIS

Injury slows Sampras' resumption

Pete Sampras, the World No 1, third leg of the Whitbread has been forced to delay his re- : Race. turn to training after injuring a calf muscle in the Davis Cup to defend his Australian Open .

injury during his opening singles match in last month's 5-0 defeat ruled him out of the rest of the final. He had expected to be on it will be another couple of days before he picks up a racket.

However, he is confident that postponing his return will not hinder his prospects in the first Grand Slam tournament of 1998 at Flinders Park. Melbourne, starting on 19 January. "It's taking a bit longer than I'd like," Sampras said. "I'd been hoping by this time to do some training and be hitting some balls, and I really hope to hit balls by the weekend. If that's not the case. I'll be a little worried. But there's no question I'll be ready for the Australian Open."

The 26-year-old has completed this year's circuit ranked world No 1 for the fifth consecutive time. He also won a fourth Wimbledon title as well as the Australian Open, in which he beat Carlos Moya to win the event for the second

Sampras is among the eightman line-up, which also includes Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, for the Kooyong Classic, the traditional curtainraiser to the Australian Open in the preceding week.

SAILING: WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE

Leaders neck and neck as Swedes suffer mast damage

A second yacht has been hit by mast damage as the Whitbread fleet at least makes fast progress towards the Bass Strait on the

Leg two winner Swedish Match, skippered by Gunnar final. However, he still expects: Krantz, last night reported buckling on both sides of the near 100-foot aluminium tube The American sustained the in the section between the deck and the keel

But the Swedes, who are in by Sweden in Stockholm which if ifth place, were continuing to race hard at what is now seen as a crucial stage of the race. the practice court by now, but : With 400 miles to go to King

Island at the entrance to what is a notoriously difficult piece of water between the southeastern tip of Australia and the island of Tasmania, the leading group of yachts are only 14 miles apart in the 2,250-mile chase from Fremantle to

Still leading was Dennis Conner's Toshiba, skippered by Britain's Paul Standbridge, but there is a big spread of over 150 miles from the most northerly boast to the most southerly and even slight variations in weather conditions can make for big differences in speed.

would put any one of them in the lead as they then turn up the finish, something for on the east coast of Australia for what is tuning into a concentrated 500-mile match race thankful as the predictions of to the finish.

Going fastest last night was Grant Dalton in Merit Cup, although he was praying that he would be able to give his yacht the light to moderate conditions in which he felt he had an edge over the opposition.

International weather routing expert, Roger 'Clouds' Sydney, was forecasting there

bring the fleet all the way to conditions. which both the competitors and the organisers would be their arrival time in Sydney have been slipping back and back. They are still expected

on Tuesday. The strong Chinese team got into its Southern Cross Cup stride yesterday on a grey and rainy Sydney Harbour, a third and a second, China whipped white by a gusting took a 43-point lead over

south-easterly breeze. It also produced a few hairy

Their 66-foot brand new Exile owned by Warwick Miller pulled a first and a third out of the hat, despite narrowly missing a big collision on the start line of the second race with Young Australia.

With Karl Kwok and his new Farr 49-footer Beau Geste, with Gavin Brady and Geoff Stagg at the back, adding Australia.

The British 43-footer Quest, moments for crews coping crewed by a Royal Navy team.

Six hours of better breeze would now be a breeze to with the more difficult reversed a disappointing 22nd in the first race of the day to pick a sixth in the second with skipper Mickey Broughton hoping to consolidate the improvement in tomorrow's two:

entrance.
WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD
RACE (third leg. 2,250 miles, Fremantle to Sydney): 1 Toshiba (US) P
Standbridge (1074 miles to finish; 2 EF
Language (Swe) P Cayard 3.2 miles behind leader: 3 Chessie Racing (US) G
Collins 7.4: 4 Silk Cut (GB) L Smith 76:
5 Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) K Frostad
142: 6 Swedish Match (Swe) G Krantz
16: 7 Merit Cup (Monaco) G Dalton
18.7: 8 EF Education (Swe) C Guillou
277: 9 Brunel Sunergy (Neth) R Heiner
28.

- Stuart Alexander in Sydney

SKIING

Seizinger equals Killy's win record

Germany's Katja Seizinger won her sixth straight race yesterday races, a pair of windward/lee- ; in Val d'Isère to equal Jeanwards outside the harbour Claude Killy's World Cup record for consecutive victories.

The Frenchman had his record streak in January 1967 (er-finch's game still slaloms and a giant slalom. Seizinger has had the luck of the schedule, with six consecutive

Seizinger has not lost since finishing fourth in a slalom on 28 November at Mammoth Mountain, California. "Everything went smoothly again today," she said. "I'm happy that I can now be mentioned in the same breath as Killy."

Seizinger started the winning run with a super-G victory at Mammoth Mountain, won two downhills and a super-G at 🐛 Lake Louise, Alberta, and took the sprint downhill on Wednesday in Val d'Isère. "I am very sure on my skis right now and that's why I can attack better. That's my secret of the moment," she said.

With her 34th career victory, Seizinger broke a record she shared with the former Liechtenstein racer, Hanni Wenzel, for third place on the women's career list. Anne-Marie Moser-Proll of Austria tops the all-time list with 62, while Switzerland's Vreni Schneider is second with 55 successes.

Seizinger will face a tough test in today's grant slalom, with Italy's Debbie Compagnoni enjoying a seven-race winning run in the discipline.

Wind of change brings respite for my wet and weary crew



GRANT DALTON

Hard work and little sleep made for a tough start to the third leg of the Whitbread Race for Merit Cup. However, as her skipper reports, things are looking up.

Soon we will know what Santa has brought us for Christmas. At the moment it feels more like a lucky dip than a promise to deliver our wish list. This game certainly frays the nerves and I am not sure how well we are going to be able to celebrate with our families when they join us in Australia for the break through the New Year.

When we were halfway to Sydney there was still nothing in it. It has been close racing since the start of the third leg from Fremantle and having everyone so close is a real incentive to keep levels of concentration high. I can't recall a Whitbread

leg where the leaderboard has

changed so often and it's going

to change again before it is all

Saturday, we have been on the wind. A pounding beat south to Cape Leeuwin and then across the Great Australian Bight. The conditions have not been to our liking and they have been very tiring for the crew.

The weather has not been that bone-crunching, boat- for anyone to see, is her ability, breaking stuff that we have had on other legs, but it has certainly sapped the crew's strength. We had five days on for downwind performance. the rail - uncomfortable, wet and wearying. I got my first real sleep on Tuesday night, our fourth night at sea.

Almost from the start last days - not only because it's been uncomfortable, but also because our position in the fleet has been none too flash.

However, as Mike Quilter. our on-board philosopher and navigator, says: "We have to live with out weaknesses."

Merit Cup's weakness, plain or lack of it, upwind compared with some of the other yachis. That was our trade-off We are really happy with that, especially in a light to moderate breeze

The upwind work was not It always takes the boys a unexpected, but it is day or two to settle in after a completely different weather restart and meal times are not from the three previous Whita high priority when it's a beat bread starts from Fremantle into the wind from the word go. when the fleet went south in ever, we have started pushing

objective instead of Auckland. we took a more easterly mute, dictated by the high-pressure system pushing into the area. and had to beat into the southeasterly breeze coming off the

top of it, By yesterday the wind had come around a little and we were able to start reaching. We have also been able to take the sails off the rail on deck (where they had been stacked for five days to help stability) The wind shift is more to our liking, although it was predicted to be light for the next 24 to 36

hours. It could also be patchy. As I write this we are doing only six knots and it has been like that for a few hours. How-We did not enjoy the first five search of the westerly breeze. south a little in the expectation

This time, with Sydney the of the breeze being a little stronger there. If we get a good breeze we have an excellent chance of showing some of our potential in light to moderate

The weather over the next few days should give us the opportunity to catch up if the wind evens out right over the fleet. From then on, we think the breeze will kick in and we will run into Bass Strait. Once we turn the corner, the whole fleet could be bunched again for the final push up to Sydney.

Everyone wants to win, but everyone also knows that we are finally seeing just how well these boats are matched and the difference between walking tall in Sydney and stamping on the dockside waiting for the fourth leg to Auckland is hairline thin.

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Results, Digest, page 27

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England opt for Chile warm-up at Wembley

11 February in their warm-up to the 1998 World Cup finals in

The Football Association have not yet confirmed opponents for planned friendlies in March and April, but Saudi Arabia will visit Wembley on 23 May for their final home game efore the finals.

"We're looking to develop a balanced and helpful fixture list between now and the start of the World Cup and both Chile and Saudi Arabia have qualified for France 98," Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said. "Chile

next opponents at Wembley on said of Saudi Arabia in comparison with Tunisia - and both Colombia and Tunisia, of course, figure in our group at the World Cup."

Marcelo Salas, the Chilean striker, will not be appearing at Wembley as a Manchester United player, however, as the league leaders have pulled out their current form does not warrant the need for another

Salas' agent, Gustavo Moscardi, had claimed this week the player was not interare clearly similar in style to thought to want to move to Italy,

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

Emley eager for East End adventure

There was more than just a trip West Ham riding on the final Spot-kick of a gripping penalty shoot-out at the McAlpine Stadium late on Wednesday evening. When Lincoln City's Phil Stant, a former professional soldier, stepped up to face Emley's goalkeeper Chris Marples, a former professional cricketer, both beer and glory rested on

The UniBond League side were 4-3 ahead in the shoot-out, after an enthralling FA Cup second-round replay had produced a 3-3 scoreline following extra time. If Stant missed, then Emley, and not Lincoln, would book their lucrative third-round ticket to Upton Park.

"I'll have a pint on this with you," Stant said. Marples, the former Chesterfield goalkeeper and Derbyshire wicketkeeper, agreed - and promptly saved the penalty to seal a shoot-out victory for the club from the West Yorkshire village with a population of around 500.

drinks I've ever had." Marples, London club as a teenager. who now works as a gardener,

for himself as a shoot-out exat the end of the first-round replay against Morecambe to set special memories. up the tie with John Beck's Lintwo on Wednesday to make it ve spot kicks saved from nine attempts. "It's not been a strong point of mine before," he said.

Marples' heroics concluded a memorable night for Emley, who had never progressed beyond the first round of the Cup prior to this season. They trailed normal time to play, but goals give it our best shot." from Deniol Graham, the

former Manchester United for-

ward who is now a labourer, and

Steve Nicholson, a fireman,

earned the extra period. Nichol-

but a late equaliser from Lincoin led to the shoot-out. Marples, who has also kept goal for York and Stockport, has appeared at top-flight grounds before, but the same does not apply to all his team-mates. "It's great for them because a lot of them have not even played at League grounds before, so to go to a Premiership club is just fan-

tastic," he said. Emley hope to make at least £100,000 from the third-round tie at West Ham on 3 January funds they need to secure their future. They will be able to bring their Welfare Ground, which has a capacity of just 3,000, up to GM Vauxhall standard.

The journey to Upton Park will be a special one for Emley's secretary Richard Poulain, who retired as a Football League referee at the end of last season. "It might have been bitter. He supported the Hammers as but it was one of the sweetest a child and bad trials with the

Emley's manager, the former Partick Thistle, Celtic and Marples is making a name Barnsley midfielder Ronnie Glavin, said: "Every big game pert. He saved three penalties you play in, every trophy you win, they've all got their own

"This is the same, this is a coin side, and added another special memory as well and you just want to enjoy it. But it ranks right up there with everything else I've achieved - and it's certainly the best feeling I've had as a manager.

"We go to West Ham with nothing to lose," Glavin added. "The expectancy of everyone in Britain will be very low, but we 2-0 with just 15 minutes of will go and enjoy ourselves and

- Rupert Metcalf

Chile will provide England's Colombia; the same can be with Parma being his likely destination.

> Everton have denied that Gary Speed will be moving to Newcastle, despite reports linking him with a £5m swap deal involving Darren Peacock after a £3.5m bid from St James' Park fell through last week.

An Everton spokesman said last night: "It is absolute nonof the race to sign him, saying sense. Gary is definitely not involved in any talks with Newcastle,

Speed will captain Everton at Leicester tomorrow, aiming to end his side's unenviable record of having gone a full year ested in joining United, as he is without an away Premiership victory, the last one coming at Derby on 16 December last

> Sheffield Wednesday are hopeful that they will be able to resurrect the deal to bring the Macedonian international Goce Sedloski to Hillsborough after his transfer was halted by a problem with a medical.

George Boateng, the Dutch Under-21 midfielder, has signed for Coventry City in a £250,000 move from Feyenoord and goes straight into the side against son scored again, from the spot. Liverpool at Anfield tomorrow.

"We consider this a very good piece of business," Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, said. "To get him for that price was a steal. We scraped the barrel to do this deal. If I want to bring any more players here I must wheel and deal."

Meanwhile, the Coventry captain Gary McAllister will be out of action for seven weeks after keyhole surgery revealed a torn cartilage.

Arsenal have given their 37year-old goalkeeper John Lukic a free transfer after losing his place as David Seaman's deputy to Austrian Under-21 keeper Alex Manninger.

Rangers have finally found their own permanent training ground at Balgray in Glasgow's west end. The Scottish champions have agreed terms with Kelvinside Academy War Memorial Trust to buy the school's 10-acre training ground. - Catherine Riley

TODAY'S NUMBER

£5,000

The amount each of Scotland's 40 league clubs are to get from the Scottish League as a "cold weather payment". The financial support is to help the clubs through the winter, when games may be postponed due to bad weather.



Nick Skelton, on Virtual Village Showtime, speeds his way to victory in the Petplan Christmas Candle Stakes at the Olympia Show Jumping Championships yesterday

Skelton makes right moves with Showtime

Nick Skelton had put the tura whirlwind clear round on day of the Olympia Show Jumping Championships.

EQUESTRIANISM

Skelton moved his home and the yard where he keeps his of days ago," Skelton said of horses earlier this month. He remains in the Warwickshire village of Lowsonford and is yesterday. Showtime was fast now a neighbour of Robert and clear, defeating Jewel's

According to Skelton, the moil of moving house behind mare Showtime has not been him yesterday, when he rode the same since competing in the Atlanta Olympics last year. Virtual Village Showtime to The 13-year-old did win a win the Petplan Christmas class in Toronto in early No-Candle Stakes on the opening vember, but has since been out in the field recovering from anaemia and a viral infection.

"I brought her in a couple the mare, who did not remotely resemble an invalid to a new house and stables. man Piet Raymakers) by a

comfortable 3.37sec. Ludger pean Champion, filled third place on Sprehe Rush On.

John Whitaker had made a good start to this annual pre-Christmas meeting when winning the opening class, the Petplan Family Pairs Relay, in partnership with his 17-yearold daughter, Louise.

They defeated the sisters Michelle Lipman and Annette Lewis, with two more Smith, who also recently moved lidaem (the mount of Dutch- Michael, and 14-year-old son, on it while struggling to regain Robert) in third place.

"Louise won it for us." Beerbaum, the German Euro- John Whitaker said after his shared victory. No one watching the contest would have disagreed with him, for the daughter (who is Britain's reigning national women's

champion) flew round the

course on Deep Heat. John Whitaker still has sore ribs as the result of a fall with Virtual Village Welham in Berlin last month. He also broke the index finger of his Whitakers (John's brother, left hand when Welham trod

his feet, but the Yorkshireman

has not allowed such problems to keep him out of the saddle. Guy Goosen, who had accepted a late invitation to ride Sagrat here in tonight's UPS

Christmas Puissance, has been

forced to withdraw. The horse is suffering from an infection in his left hind foot. In his left hind foot.

OLYMPIA SHOW JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS: Perplan Christmas Candle
States: 1 Virtus Village Showtme (N Statton, GB) clear, 43/75sec; 2 Jewel's Ideam
(P Raymakers, Neth) clear, 4772; 3 Somine
hash On (L Beethaum Gen) clear, 4727; Perplan Family Paira Belay; 1 Vartual Village
beep riest it. Whitasier; 3 Vartual Village
Famil (J Whitasier) 62/75ec; 2 Incara (M
Lipman) and Gold Hortzon (A Lewis) 64.23;
3 Fowere Kais (R Whitasier) and Virtual Village
Etton (M Whitasier) 88.42.

MOTOR RACING

Stewart announces new sponsors - but does not rule out tobacco in future

his Formula One team.

lenged earlier this month to demand such assurances. prove his Stewart-Ford team tentious issue of tobacco MCI, the telecommunications

Jackie Stewart put somebody money in grand prix racing. Yet concern, as his latest long- phase out cigarette involve- coming along with us. The else's money where his mouth far from cowering in embarterm partners. is vesterday when he announced rassment. Stewart countered by deals with two new sponsors for informing FIA he would have the budget, even though, ac-The three-times former cording to the governing body's world champion was chal-rules, they were not entitled to

Stewart delighted in making had the financial resources to a show of introducing the Lear them for their confidence." complete next season, a move. Corporation, one of the seen as retaliation against com- world's leading suppliers of auments he had made on the con- tomotive interior systems, and

the timing and the length of their commitment to what we are trying to achieve. Their partnerships are indicative of our cannot rule out an industry of growth as we enter our second championship year. We thank

Stewart also revealed that tobacco companies have approached him to set up sponsorship deals, despite plans to

ment. His was one of the few He said: "We welcome both teams on the grid without any form of tobacco backing last involvement in the future. "You already filled.

> that size," he said. of our major partners asked us approached by quite a few tobacco companies interested in

problem we have is that any tobacco company wants to have a dominant position on the car, year, but he has not discounted but a lot of our key areas are

"Economically, we are totally stable with partners and spon-"We started off without a to- sors and we have not had to go bacco association, because two to the tobacco industry, but, even though we chose not to walk that to. Recently, we have been road, it doesn't rule out it as a possibility for the future."

- Denick Allson

SPORTING DIGEST

GOLF

Seizinger

equals Killy's

win record

21 1 1 1 1 1

Raker-Finch's game still in a hole

Open champion, said he would two successive tee-shots into the continue working on his game water on the 18th hole. despite disqualifying himself from the Coolum Classic tour- his game was not yet ready to nament in New South Wales stand up to professional tourvesterday.

Baker-Finch was six over going to not retire.

Ian Baker-Finch, the former parafter eight holes when he hit

The 1991 Open winner said nament play. But he said he is

The 37-year-old Australian later criticised the press, "Why do you gays have to take pictures and have quotes." he said. "Why write about someone who's not playing well? People are sick of hearing what I had, they want to know what the good scores are."



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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7 33 unless stated NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

es.
HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE-LAND Premier Division: Dropheda « University College Dublin 1745: St Parricks Americk «Cons. Coly (125): Snel-bourne » Firin Harps (1745). Cricket CHAMPIONS' TROPHY Final (One-day match) Sharjatz England v West Indies (\$ 30mm)

i30amı 10liR MATCH (Final day of three) Port गेरुकोक्सोर: South Alncan Studenis v टाप्टे

Boxing
PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (London Arena, Docklands): WBC superind distriction of the programme of the pr

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester v Crystal Patace (730). Tharmes Valley v Greuter London (80). Newcastle v War-tond (730).

Other sports
gouestmanish, Olympia International show among thampotrastals
cleansaged Olympia London
pools Mastern Cup (Bethral Green
to the Committee of the SPEED SKATING: Shiften Chamel-onships (Guldared).

Athletics

ZATOPEK CLASSIC (Melbourne) 10,000m: 1 L kpikosgei (kani 27mm 29.44sec. 2 J Kiptoo ikani 27 3004 3 R Johnston (NZ) 2810780 Basketball

NBA, Indiana 37 New York 80, Boston 88 Toronto 83 Washington 88 Marin 74, Adama 94 Ce-stenc 63 Charlonte 99 Milwaukee 90, New Jersey 105 Detroit 107 Minnesote 94 Philadelphia 90 Chaogo 104 LA Lakers 83, San Antonio 96 Vancounter 67

Boxing Felia Bwalya, the light-welterweight champion from Zambia, remained in a coma yesterday, four days after win-ning the Commonwealth title from the Briton Paul Burke in a controversial decision in Lusaka

Cricket Saciam Mushtaq the 21 year-old Pak-istan off-spinner, has signed a new contract to continue as Surrey's over-Command to Committee as Surfreys over-seas player next summer.

INDIA SOLIAD from one-day sense sgalnet Sri Lanias, 22 Dec. Gurranias, 25 Dec. Indians, 28 Dec. Goo): S.R. Tendules (capit, S.C. Genguly, N.S. Schu, M. Achsungdin, A.D. Ladge, V.Y.S. Lu-man, H.H. Karitt ar. S.Y. Bahutuse N.R. Mongle inklij. J. Smath, R.F. Cheuhan, H.S. Sodis, B.D. Mohandy, R. Singh

Football The United States will begin its World Cup preparation schedule with a match against Sweden in Orlando on

34 January The exprenced Airdine winger Alan Lawrence has moved to Partick This-ile in an exchange deal that takes the defender David Farrell in the opposite

Harr Notingham Forest villediastrough (from 28 Feb)

FA CUP Third round: Floture change: Sun 4 Jam; Hatelord v Trammere (from 3 Jan).

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCUP Finel according Plant Plant 2 (Marcelo Sales 45, 57) São Paulo (Dodo 47) (agg; 2-1).

WEDNESDAY'S LATE PISSULYS: European Under-21 Championship qualifying play-off according: England 4 Greeze 2 lagg 4-4; Greece vm on away goals rule). FA Carp second-round replays: Embry 3 Lincho City 3 (acc Emisy won 4-3 on penaliss), licetton 1 Scuriotope 2. FA Carting Premierablic Newsastie 0 Derby 0 GM Vauchall Conference Spalding Cup quanter-final Cassined 1 Morecambe 1 see! UniBond League Cup third round: Bishop Auchaind 1 Beiper 1, Westort 1 Lancaser 0 Ryman League Full Members Cup second-round Leyon Perrent 3 Greys 0 Press 8. Journal League Premierablicon: Trammer 2 Bedourn 3. First Division: Botton 2 Covertry 3 Second Division: Emirel Childing Cup second-round replays: Brentitort 0 Swersee City 1: Amenal League: Premier Division: Trammer 2 Bedourn 3. First Division: Botton 2 Covertry 3 Second Division: Emirel Childing City 1: Amenal League: Part House Cup 1 Second-round replays: Brentitort 0 Swersee City 1: Amenal League: Alletton Mortind 2 Malacros 3. Composite of Allerdia 0 Valladodid 0; Ovisido 1 Amenal: Babas 2, Salamanos 2 Berertio (Resi Sociedad Sporting City 1; Hou I Cap second-round replays: Broot 1 Germain City 1; House Cup Covertry 0 FC Brugos 1 Germain City 1; House Cup Covertry 0 FC Brugos 1 Germain City 1; House Cup Covertry 1; House Cup Covertry 0 FC Brugos 1 Germain City 1; House Cup Covertry 0 FC Brugos 1 Germain City 1; House Cup Covertry 0 FC Brugos 1 Germain City 1; House Cup Covertry 0 FC Brugos 1 Germain City 1; House Cup 2; Golf

P O'Malley, C Spanca, P Marantz, D McKen-za, E Bouli (NZ), K Druce, 72 M Roberts, P Gow, S 7 Rooman, T Carolar, M Goggi, 73 G Chalmers, B King, A Edwards (Zim), S Tromp-son (NZ) M Barry, D Chopra (Swe), D Dez, C Jones, Selectad: 74 G Evans (Eng), 75 J West (US), K Singh (Fig), 78 J. Jackson (Eng), 83 D Ayers (US), Disqualified: 1 Baker-Finch NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL EASTER Fromme changes: The 13 Jan Peterborough v Dorossise (from 3 Jan) Tues 27 Jans Swanses City v Durington (from 3 Jan). Fill 13 Febr Castrologie Und v Lincoln City (from 14 Feb). Sun 22 Febr Birmingtem v Shelfield Und (from 21 Feb). Sun 11 Mars. Notungham v Bury (from 24 Feb). Sun 11 Mars. Notungham v Bury (from 24 Feb). Sun 12 Febr 14 Febr 15 Febr 15 Febr 15 Febr 16 Febr

Hockey
GB JUNIOR SQUAD (for training camp,
Bercelone and Terrates, 9-12 Jan): England:
A Gerratt (Beeston), P Wicken (Carsertury),
A Todd (Reading), J Davies (Bloementasi), P
Wiles (Bedington), S Lamyon (sexa), D de Prez
(Warrington), N Taylor (Hourslow), J Bleby
Isca), A Wilkinson (Isaunt), P Aldridge
(Herieston Magpies and Gresham School), J
Lonce (Reading), D Bellak (Gloucester City
and Natherne Lady Berheley School), A West
(Beeston and Rugby School), D Haydon
(Heddington and Si George's College) Scotland: L Docharty (MM Edinburgh), G Manzies (Kolburne), A McGregor (Elon Gordon),
D Mitchell (Motherwell), N Stott (Mirrisc Warderes), A Ballahin (Schrober) Huy, M Raiph
(Kolburne), B MicArtney (Monfieth), Weles:
Rhys Joyce (Frebrands), E Beren (Oystermouth), A Evans (Beeston), J Davies-Vandle
(Louphborough Students), G Egen (Bourrville) Hockey

ice hockey NHL: NY Rangers 4 Florida 2; NY islanders 4 Buffato 0; Tampa Bay 2 Boston 0; Colorado 2 Detroit 2 (00): Edmorton 0 Chicago 0 (00); Vancouver 5 Phoents 1; Toronto 6 Anaheim

Olympic Games Work has been stopped on part of the main Olympic stadium in Sydney where a large section of roof trusses weighing 65 metric tons collapsed on Saturday. Three men were saved from being crushed by a cherry-picker which held the beams up.

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 22pts (me rrun) 5:4026480 21 634440 20 5435, 19 525 Half-dim: 5:4900 Four draws: 5:8000 Me homes: 5:640 Five aways (pad on lour): 5375 Rugby League

Oldham yesterday lodged an official protest with the Rugby Football League over their omission from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The League say Oldham were not in existence when the arrangements for the cup were made. The old club went into liq-uidation in October and the new one was not admitted to the RFL as associate members until 3 December

Rugby Union Rob Fidler, the England A and Gloucester lock, is expected to miss his club's next two Allied Premiership games and their Tetley Cup clash because of a stretched knee ligament.

Skiing ALPINE WORLD CUP (Vel d'Isére, Fr) Women's super-G: 1 K Seizinger (Ger) Imm 0798sec: 2 R Génachi (Aut) 1.07:1; 3 H Gerg (Ger) 1:0764; 4 S Schuster (Aut) 1.0767; 5 M Dorfmeister (Aut) 1.0774; 5 I Kostner (N) 1:0785; 9 T B Merlin (N) 1:0789; 8 M Erti (Ger) 1:0791; 9 C Rey Bellet (Sent), A Macsonitzer (Auti) 1:0798

Tennis BRITISH WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT (Queen's Club. London) Quarter-finals: M Wanwright (Esser) Iz C Smith (Herzs) 5: 6-3. J Whee (Northeris) Iz J Koene (Warwicksters) 4: 6-4 6-1. L Ogan (Warwicks Iz L Herzer (Herss, 7: 6-4. J Chudhury (Cambai) Iz L Wood (Warwickster) 6-4 7-8. Smithfasts: Walkmanhi Iz White 6-3 6-2. Choudhury to Ogan 8-2 6-3

Draw date: 17/12/97. The winning numbers: 17, 35, 36, 43, 46, 49. Bonus number: 7. fotal Sales: £28.817.093. Prize Fund: £12.967,691 (45% of ticket sales). NO. OF WINNERS Match 6 (Jackpot) Match 5 plus bonus ball 18,407 Match 4 368.702 £12,950,380 TOTALS

TO SOME BE YOU. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY.

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail.

Naseem Hamed puts in some last-minute training before his world title bout with Kevin Kelley in New York early on Saturday morning

Photograph: Teddy Blackburn/AP

Prince poised to fulfil his American dream

If Naseem Hamed is as good as he thinks he is, he will beat Kevin Kelley tonight and become the most famous British boxer in America for more than a generation.

Harry Mullan in New York expects him to do

the sport's trade paper Baxing News I was summoned from lunch to the office by a receptionist, a lady who did not approve of the ways of boxers (or New York with a succession of love their mom and marry their the world's greatest featherweight," she said struggling to Fighter of the Year by the keep the disdain from her voice.

The visitor was not, as might be supposed, Naseem Hamed Yorker against whom Hamed defends his World Boxing Organisation title tonight in Madison Square Garden. It is a measure to feel bowed by the weight of of how their fortunes have history. His is a narrow world, changed in the meantime that Hamed, then, would not have future. Such self-absorption dreamt of challenging Kelley's right to that self-bestowed superlative, while Kelley now would have to concede the He is already wealthy enough

No. 3486. Friday 19 Decembe

7 Do exhilarating sport,

Countryman's urge to

10 I learn classical dance (5)

11 Books on the twenties

moral vigour (8)

15 All the characters in-

ing round, being

(10, 4) 20 Gulf state where Flana-

mostly (3, 5)

12 Demand investigation?

embrace old mother (6)

typically showing lack of

volved must be vicious (6)

16 District you'll see bus go- 3

originally outside city? (6)

18 Crops gathered in here? 4

gan wears a religious garb 5

edge of greatness while Kelley, at 30, contemplates a past which never delivered as much as it is likely to be bleaker by Saturday morning. This is a moment of genuine

It looks increasingly that Hamed really is as good as he believes himself to be, in which case he is poised to make the biggest impression on an American audi-Back in 1995, when I was editing ence by anyone from these parts since the days, more than 25 years ago, when Scotland's Ken Garden. Buchanan entranced American boxing writers in 1971. Since that was also the year when Joe Frazier beat Muhambut Kevin Kelley, the New mad Ali in the Garden, Buchanan's achievement was

Hamed, though, is unlikely focused on himself and his own might be unhealthy and even objectionable in a layman, but for a fighter it is a positive asset. Prince's entitlement to the label. never to need to box again, but

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

22 Indian native, sinuous in

though kit wears out? (5- 24 Fail to till arable land (6)

firm undergarment? (5)

25 Book about French resort 8

almost apt to result in

DOWN

Something to hold on to

when hammering hard

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Smaller quantity con-

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eruption? (8)

ego rather than financial imperatives. He has created a while Warren has played his part whole new market for boxing in by producing exactly the right promised - and a future which Britain, a young crowd who would never have dreamt of paying to watch Frank Bruno but have been drawn to the significance for British boxing. sport by Hamed's extravagant showmanship and unabashed exaltation in his own prowess. Now he has outgrown that market, and looks to conquer

His brand of brashness does not sit well with American fans, who prefer their heroes to be ~ Buchanan was King of The at least for public consumption - quiet and modest boys who journalists). "There's somebody dazzling performances here in high school sweetheart. Selling cil champion (a more presti- ing Federation version of the waiting for you who says he is the early 1970s, making such an Hamed has been a challenge for gious title then than the title, and is very much the "flagpromoter Frank Warren, who spent \$750,000 (£450,000) on hiring the Garden, and for Home Box Office, the TV company who have signed the Englishman to a \$12m (£7.2m) six-fight deal and invested almost \$2m (£1.2m) on an advertising blitz to introduce him to New Yorkers.

The success of the operation will be determined not by the attendance tonight, which is likely to be around half the Garden's 20,000 capacity, but by the figures for his next American appearance and specifically the take-up for the pay-per-view

Corporation, one fea-

Frisky horse champing

13 Köchel muttered angrily

14 Peer carrying one case

17 Drinking establishment

18 Blue neck tie originally

19 Steal article that is very

said part of rosary (4)

uncivilised (8)

cherished? (6)

hard (4)

ordinate soundtrack with 21 Long service, intrinsically

Duster for one's personal 23 Venerable churchman

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worn by arts graduate (6)

bits of tack takes the bis-

tured in a satirical maga-

gambled hugely on his potential. opponent to make the gamble

Kelley could have been designed by computer to be Hamed's ideal opponent. The 30-year-old, home-loving father of four has a lifestyle far removed from Hamed's recreational pursuits, which centre around flash cars and nightclubs, and while retaining a healthy respect for his own abilities, he is no longer the chest-thumper he was in his

He was World Boxing Coun-WBO's) for almost two years, and his record of 47 wins and two draws in 50 fights is impressive. The solitary loss cost him the WBC belt, when he absorbed a bad beating from the Mexican Alejandro Gonzalez, but he has come back well and scored stylish wins in his two previous fights this year. He is a crowd pleaser, never afraid to take blows in order to land his own, but that is a suicidal strategy against Hamed.

The Sheffield southpaw is the hardest punching featherweight of recent years, and the make it an explosively exciting power is enhanced by the affair while it lasts. After that,

Hamed, at 23, stands on the has always been driven by his transmission. HBO have unorthodoxy of his delivery. Las Vegas is surely the next stop. The Prince and the city were He can land telling blows from made for each other, and it was the most improbable angles and positions, and at times only Warren's difficult relationship with his former partner seems to defy the law of gravity as easily as he flouts the hoary Don King which stopped old boxing conventions like Hamed making his debut there never pulling back from at least a year ago. punches with your chin in the King wanted a degree of con-

air, or never dropping your

hands within your opponents

punching range. Hamed does it

all with hewildering speed and

an unshakeable self-belief

which has survived potentially

embarrassing moments in de-

fences against Daniel Alesia and

quished the International Box-

ship" fighter of the WBO. His

success, and his loyalty to the

organisation, has had beneficial

results for British fighters - so

many of them have contested

WBO titles in the past two

vears that cynics might suggest

the initials stand for Warren's

Boxing Organisation - but

whatever belt he holds. Hamed

is beyond challenge as the best

He should dispose of Kelley

within four rounds, although the

American's courage and con-

siderable hitting power could

He won and then relin-

Manuel Medina.

trol which Warren was not prepared to relinquish, hence King's unwillingness to match Hamed in the unification fights with the rival champions under his wing. Warren's lucrative alliance

with HBO has sidelined King, and so long as Hamed continues to deliver viewer-pulling performances it may have changed the whole power base in the sport. Warren no longer needs King to deliver opponents when there are HBO fighters readily available. Junior Jones, a loquacious and gifted New Yorker who defends his WBO super-bantamweight title on tonight's show, could be the next in line for a fighter with a new world to conquer.

Women finally achieve parity with male counterparts

Pete Davies reports from Nagpur England 95 Australia 96-2 Australia win by eight wickets

Played four, won four - and then there was Australia. In the handsome VCA Stadium yesterday, England were handed the sharpest possible lesson in just how good a women's cricket team can be. Comprehensively outplayed by 11 quick and agile athletes, they can not now be in any doubt about how big a challenge they face to retain their world title.

The field was immaculate; the wicket had been prepared for the recent India-Sri Lanka men's Test. It was flat, grassless and quick, but Catherine Fitzpatrick was quicker.

When Australia's opening bowler told reporters she could send it down at 75mph, eyebrows were raised, but from her first ball it was all too plain she could. Her first two overs were maidens, and Charlotte Edwards was clean bowled for nought in her

Of England's vaunted batting line-up, few made much headway. At No 3 Barbara Daniels worked hard for 23 and at No 4 Sue Metcalfe grafted for her 14, but the run rate was painfully slow, and was stifled utterly when legspinner Olivia Magno went to work. A silly run out and some rank bad shots looked likely to leave England with a truly woeful total, before Clare Connor and Melissa Reynard stuck in for 10 overs.

When Fitzpatrick came back she smashed Connor's stumps with her first ball, and Connor's assessment of her fall was refreshing honest: "I bottled it." Reynard, coming in at No 8, was England's best bat, but she holed out to midoff with two balls of the innings left, and England were all out for 95.

Australia cruised past that total inside 28 overs. Captain Belinda Clark oozed confidence and control. When Reynard tricked her with a slower ball that she lobbed up for Jane Brittin at cover, Michelle Goszko took over, and looked similarly untroubled.

It was, in short, an all-ton familiar story of what happens in cricket when England play Australia. In England's defence, their previous three games have been no kind of preparation for opponents of this ability, and on another day they can play pace like Fitzpatrick's.

All the same, travelling to Nagpur together and staying in the same hotel on Wednesday night, there was a paipable tension between the two sides, and whatever they might say to the contrary, England played as if they had built Australia up as something formidable in their

Come the game, the old enemy took ruthless advantage. In a one-day game, they set Test match fields with two slips and a gully, a silly point or a short leg or both. Too many English women were psyched out by an aggressive fielding outfit more than willing to stare

It was, at least, only a group game - so the question is, will it happen again? Karen Smithies said: "We didn't apply ourselves batting. We knew after the last three games the step up in class would be difficult, and we needed someone to be watchful, which no one really was. But I still think we can counter them. We just have to learn from today."

England are a talented and big-hearted squad who can certainly play better than yesterday. They will now need to lift themselves before they go to Chandigarh for a quarter-final against the Netherlands or Sri Lanka on Sunday.

B Clark c Brittin b Reynard I Broadbent c Casear b Teylor M Goszko not out

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Pleat's credentials

impress Gross

David Pleat's chances of re- been on the pitch as a manager turning to White Hart Lane have increased significantly years in this profession. It's not following a long telephone conversation between the former Tottenham manager and the English players very well." current holder of that position, the recently appointed Christ-

Gross confirmed yesterday that he had had a two-and-ahalf-hour phone conversation with Pleat, who was recently sacked by Sheffield Wednesday, Pleat is the favourite to be made Tottenham's director of football, an appointment that would allow Gross to concentrate on the day-to-day running of the club.

"He loves soccer," Gross said of Pleat. "It was interest- three players Howard Kendall ing to talk to him about soccer was interested in. Kendall but no decision has been taken. Alan Sugar [the Spurs chairman] has already said he needs someone in this position, but the responsibilities are strictly separated. Maybe David Pleat will be that man, maybe not,

"Over the last 24 years he has

and it's not easy to stop after 24 easy to be on the other side. But David knows English soccer and

There will be no decision until after Christmas and, a)though Gross insists he would still be responsible for negotiating with players, he admits that scouting is an area that needs attention. Gross had hoped to bring

Andy Hincheliffe to Spurs to shore up a defence that has conceded 10 goals in the last two games and 32 overall. But a player-swap deal for the Everton full-back has fallen through, because of injuries to two of the wanted to swap Hinchcliffe for either Les Ferdinand, Steffen Iversen or Chris Armstrong, but with the latter two injured and Ferdinand not for sale, the deal has been shelved.

England to take on Chile.

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